



Call for 'wider Europe'

# Thatcher sets out vision of grand alliance

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

MRS Margaret Thatcher last night called for the creation of a "great alliance for democracy", linking eastern and western Europe and tied to North America.

But in a speech in Cambridge, she also said it was essential to European security that the United States, Britain and France should continue to have "sizeable forces" in Germany and that Nato should retain nuclear weapons based there.

Her emphasis on foreign forces and nuclear weapons is unlikely to have pleased Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, who attended a dinner with her to mark the 40th anniversary of the annual Königswinter conferences on Anglo-German friendship.

In his own speech, he agreed with her on most aspects of European security but said nothing about retaining American, British or French forces or nuclear weapons.

The two speeches underlined sharp differences over the pace of progress towards greater European unity, which Herr Kohl linked to the question of German reunification.

In a clear reference to Mrs Thatcher, he said: "Those who want a united Germany to be firmly integrated into European structures must logically support further progress in European unification."

The Prime Minister has strongly opposed proposals by M Jacques Delors, president

of the European Commission, for economic and monetary union; but Herr Kohl called for "constructive, intensive and swift efforts" on the issue at an inter-governmental conference later this year.

Herr Kohl also ignored Mrs Thatcher's strong objections to moves that could lead to a united states of Europe. He said he would propose at an EC summit in Dublin next month that a second inter-governmental conference should be held this year to speed up political union.

In her speech, Mrs Thatcher proposed that the "Helsinki accords, which helped to break down differences between eastern and western Europe, should be greatly extended. Every participating country would make a commitment to free elections, the rule of law, and a range of freedoms including the right to own private property."

Adapting a phrase once used by President Gorbachov, she said the new alliance would "stretch from the Atlantic to the Urals and beyond." The Soviet President used it to describe the scope of cuts in conventional forces in Europe, which may be achieved through a treaty later this year. Mrs Thatcher extended its meaning to describe a wider Europe linked by increasingly shared values.

The forum for the changes would be the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which links the United States and Canada with every country in Europe except Albania. It is to hold a special conference later this year to discuss the changes in eastern Europe and the reunification of Germany.

Mrs Thatcher said the summit could take "a major step towards the creation of a great alliance for democracy, which would stretch from the Atlantic to the Urals and beyond". She proposed that the CSCE agreements should be extended to include a provision setting out the conditions to be fulfilled for elections to be considered truly free.

Another provision would strengthen the rule of law. The 35 nations would also agree to extend political consultations with meetings of foreign ministers twice a year and a procedure for extraordinary sessions in times of crisis. The CSCE could also be given a conciliation role.

"The summit should add to the Helsinki principles the

Kohl ascendant, page 10  
Kohl speech, page 20

## GMC says kidneys sold for transplants

By John Young

TWO surgeons and a physician took part in the sale of kidneys for transplant operations, the professional committee of the General Medical Council decided yesterday. Sir Robert Kilpatrick, committee chairman, said that it found allegations proven against Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon, Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, and Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street specialist.

After the committee's longest and most expensive hearing to date, it has still to decide whether the facts as proven constitute serious professional

Hearing report, page 3

**Hemingway find**  
A professor of English who deciphered a handwritten manuscript criss-crossed with revisions in a Boston, Massachusetts, library claims to have found Ernest Hemingway's last short story... Page 7

**Speedy cheques**  
The Government plans to cut the time taken to cash a cheque by more than a day, saving the bank system millions of pounds. The proposal is in a White Paper... Page 21

**BT dismissals**  
British Telecom announced a review which will lead to the departure of at least 3,000 middle managers. BT also announced that Mr Graeme Odgers, its deputy chairman, had resigned... Page 21

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Yeoman Warden calling in the union

By Tim Jones  
Employment Affairs Correspondent

THE Yeomen Warders of the Tower of London, who search for their pikes when described as Beefeaters, have asked their union to fight on their behalf to prevent a proposal to open up the royal palace on Sunday mornings.

The 42 Yeomen, who receive 2.2 million visitors a year, regard their Sunday mornings as a welcome relief from constant questioning. They have asked the National Union of Civic and Public Servants to intercede because they believe their lives are hard enough.

Their perpetual cheerfulness is world-renowned, but it takes its toll. They would happily exchange a penny for their basic salary of about £7,500 for every time they have posed for a photograph with a Japanese tourist or a child dripping ice-cream.

The question of the new opening hours at the Tower is to be raised in the Lords by Lord Halsbury, who regularly attends Sunday morning services at the Chapel Royal.

Ultimately, the issue could be brought to the attention of the Queen, for the prospect of disrupting Sunday morning services, when the Tower becomes, briefly, a sanctuary for the 50 families who live within its ramparts, is causing concern in senior church circles.

A spokesman for the Historic Royal Palaces, the agency which is responsible for the Tower of London, confirmed yesterday that Sunday opening was being considered.

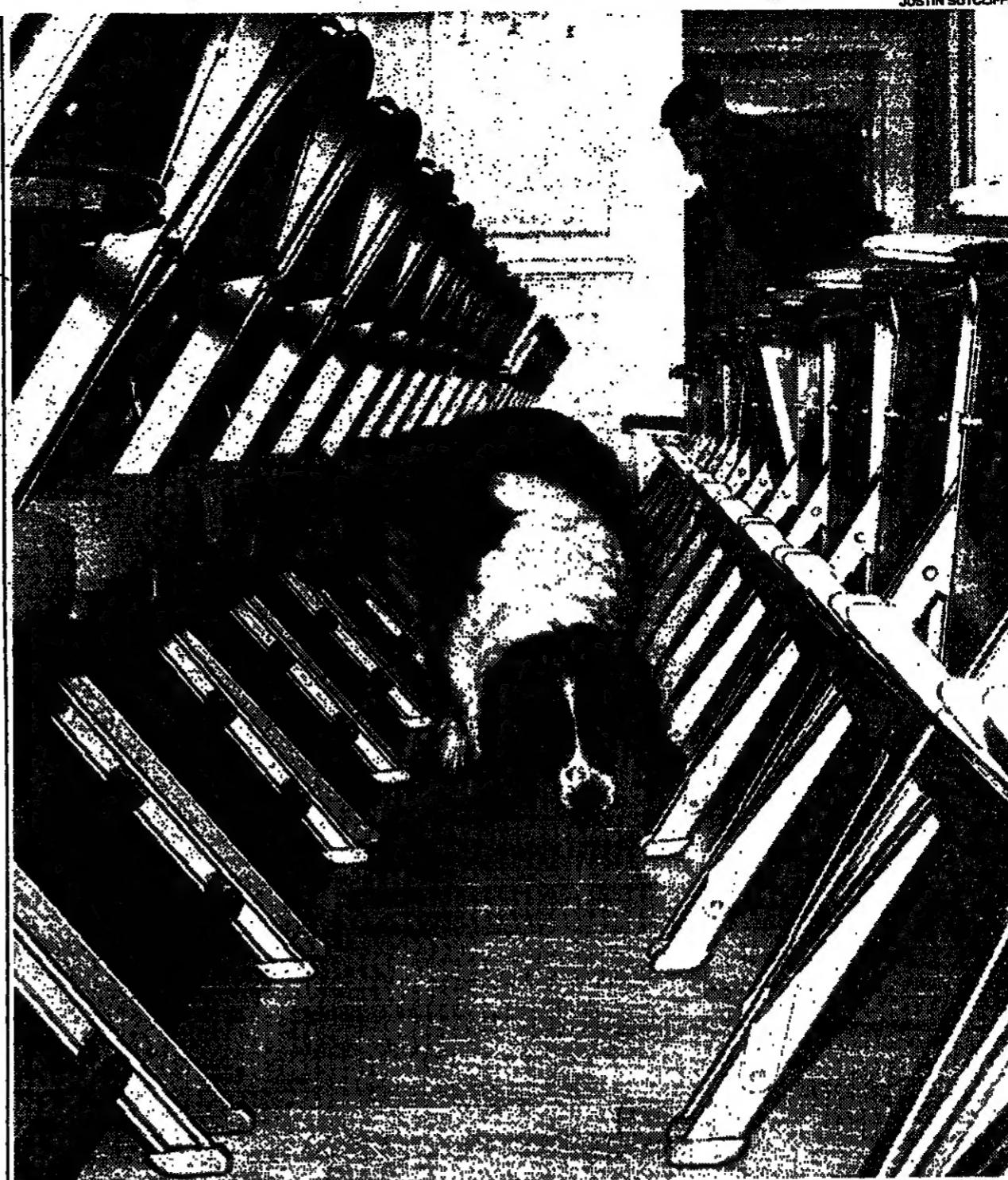
Lord Halsbury, president of the Association of Friends of the Chapels Royal, said that in considering the move the Government could be accused of acting in a "philistine" manner.

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steward, said that although the move was probably inevitable, "it must not be assumed that we are in favour of it. Sunday morning is the one day when the Tower becomes our private home and we can either attend services, relax or simply enjoy a lunch with our families."

"Some of our members are very unhappy about the prospect and it is probably the first time in our long and proud history that the union has been called in. We already work more than 50 hours a week on average and must be able to enjoy some uninterrupted time with our families."

When the possibility of Sunday opening was raised in the Commons last month, Mr Conal Gregory, Conservative MP for York, said it was a "national scandal" that the Tower — "a national treasure trove" — was only open on Sunday afternoons during the summer.



Safe seats: A police dog sniffing for bombs in Cheltenham Town Hall before today's visit by Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kenneth Baker when they will address the Conservative Central Council

Report, page 2

## Petrol breaks the £2 barrier

By Kevin Eason  
Motoring Correspondent

PETROL prices will move to their highest level for five years from Monday at more than £2 a gallon.

It is the second rise in less than two weeks and will add pressure to the Government's inflation worries.

Shell, a market leader, announced yesterday it will increase the price of a gallon of both four-star and unleaded by 5.4p, putting a total of more than 16p on the cost of a gallon since the Budget. Other companies are expected to follow suit.

The AA said last night: "We said at the time of the Budget that motorists faced another increase in their annual bill of £30. This adds another £15."

Mr Nigel Griffiths, Labour spokesman on consumer affairs, said the increase was a bleak start to the 1990s for the motoring and urged Shell to justify the rise. Shell blamed the increases on leaping spot prices in the Rotterdam oil market.

misconduct and is unlikely to reach a verdict until the middle of next week.

The committee found Dr Crockett had arranged a number of operations during 1988 for the removal of kidneys for transplant operations and knew that none of the donors was related to the recipient.

Both Mr Joyce and Mr Bewick were found to have carried out a number of transplants without establishing whether the donors had given full consent.

The case continues today.

Kohl ascendant, page 10  
Kohl speech, page 20

## Police agree TV names

By Craig Seton, Robin Oakley and Stewart Tindall

THE four men named in the Granada television programme as the alleged organizers of the Birmingham pub bombings were "very likely" to have been involved, Mr Geoffrey Dear, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, said yesterday. But he said there was no hard evidence.

Mr Dear insisted, however, that the six men who were convicted to be the bomb layers and planters. He said: "There were figures above them who escaped. We have always maintained that the Birmingham Six were not the only ones involved."

Mr Dear repudiated any suggestion that the force had known the identity of the four organizers of the 1974 atrocity, in which 21 people died.

Mr Dear said that it was being alleged that the six men convicted of the bombings were innocent and the other four or five were really the bombers and planters. He condemned the programme as

and had done nothing. The Home Office issued a statement yesterday, saying that no new evidence had been put forward in the programme.

The Granada programme, *Who Bombed Birmingham?*, named Michael Christopher Anthony Hayes as an alleged bomb planter. Seamus McLoughlin, allegedly the planner, known as "Belfast Jimmy"; Michael Murray, said to have telephoned the warning, and James Francis Gavin, described as the bomb maker, were also named.

He also referred to a West Midlands Special Branch document, a feature of the programme, and said it had been prepared in November 1975, after the trial. "It is of no significance whatever."

In the Commons yesterday, the Prime Minister said the broadcasting of the names amounted to "trial by television". The rule of law would be ended if trial by television was ever to take over.

Parliament, page 6

Customs officials were ordered to prevent the rallies.

In Estonia, where the new parliament began its first session, para-military self-defence units were being formed to protect the borders of a future independent state.

The announcement of an amnesty for Lithuanian deserters was accompanied by a warning from the Soviet Defence Ministry that anyone who continued to break the law would be tracked down and prosecuted.

Tass said that there were more than 250 deserters in Lithuania. Fifty-one had already rejoined their units and army representatives had visited the parents of 97 deserters to get them to persuade their sons to go back.

Shooting claims, page 8

## Moscow relents over deserters

From Michael Baryan, Moscow

TENSION over Lithuania eased slightly yesterday with the announcement here that army deserters would not be punished if they rejoined their units. Some were reportedly already to have done so.

After President Gorbachov's meeting with Senator Edward Kennedy, senior Western diplomats also expressed cautious optimism that Moscow was seeking a way to begin negotiations, despite strong pressure for a crackdown from Soviet military leaders.

In the Ukraine, Rukh, the nationalist popular front, expressed strong support for Lithuania's independence and called for rallies throughout the Ukraine tomorrow. The Ukrainian Communist Party denounced these calls as provocative and local government officials were ordered to prevent the rallies.

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Continued on page 20, col 3

Atomic ambitions, page 9

The three were charged between March 20 and March 28 together at Heathrow Airport and elsewhere in the United Kingdom they were unlawfully concerned in the attempted export of 40 electrical capacitors.

In the second, unrelated, Customs operation it was disclosed that during raids on business premises in Edinburgh and Deeside in Cheshire, paperwork was found which referred to past sales of military goods to the Iraqi Navy. The equipment, believed to be naval mine detonators, had been flown out of Britain on an Iraqi Airways flight.

"Nothing has been seized in this operation," one source said. "The paperwork shows that the export of this naval equipment has already taken place."

The Iraqis are known to want acoustic detonators for the development of advanced sea mines. They have been trying for many years to obtain sea-mine technology, according to defence sources.

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Continued on page 20, col 3

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## Beefeaters take up pikes over Sunday work

By Tim Jones



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# Cabinet approves poll tax capping for 20 councils

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

THE community charge is to be capped in about 20 Labour-controlled local authorities under a package of measures approved by the Cabinet yesterday.

An announcement in the Commons from Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected next week, probably on Tuesday.

It is understood that few if any Conservative councils are among those whose budgets and poll tax bills are to be pruned. Insiders are insisting, however, that the criteria used to define excessive spending and to identify councils to be capped have not been fiddled to spare Tory-run authorities.

Mr Patten said on Wednesday that any decisions he made had to stand up in court. However, Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said last night that capping 20 Labour councils might be legal, but it would not be fair: "It will stink, and the public will know that it stinks."

The seven councils rate-capped last year - Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Lewisham, Southwark, Thamesdown and Tower Hamlets - plus about a dozen others are expected to be on Mr Patten's list. Tower Hamlets is run by the Liberal Democrats, but the rest are Labour controlled.

Details of the package

emerged at Westminster as Conservative backbenchers' anxiety over the poll tax again surfaced in the Commons.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Tory MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, told the Prime Minister that the poll tax had become "friendless" even among those who gained from it.

Mr Neil Kinnock also

marked the last Prime Minister's Questions before the scrapping of domestic rates with a fierce attack on the "flagship" of Mrs Thatcher's third term. "The people of Britain know that from Sunday they will have imposed on them a tax of monstrous injustice and cost. It is incompatible with democracy."

Mrs Thatcher, however, insisted that the community charge was preferable to the alternatives of a rating revaluation, which would put a colossal burden on half the people in a local government area, local income tax or Labour's roof tax, which was "blown sky-high" every time Mr Kinnock enunciated it.

Ability to pay was taken care of by most generous rebates and the fact that most council spending was paid for by the taxpayer, she argued.

Mrs Thatcher also disclosed that the plight of 51,000 student nurses, most of whom face paying a full community

charge out of salaries of between £5,695 to £6,630 outside London, would be eased by changes in their status.

By 1995, it is intended that all student nurses will be on Project 2,000, a new approach to their training and education, which does away with working on the wards and pays bursaries. Some 3,000 trainees are already on the new course.

Mrs Thatcher said that they would then be treated as "ordinary students" and would be liable for only 20 per cent of the charge.

Labour responded to the attack last night with Mr Bryan Gould, its chief environment spokesman, linking Mrs Thatcher's "grand obsession" with the poll tax and the rise of Mr Michael Heseltine as the Tory "leader in waiting".

It is getting hard to walk around the House of Commons without tripping over cabals of Conservative MPs plotting the succession; he told an anti-poll tax rally in Colchester, Essex.

He had earlier described the community charge as a "tax on being 18" and predicted that it would break up families. "With huge household bills, more young people are bound to be thrown on to the streets."

Parliament, page 6

## Lambeth braced for high tax

By Libby Jukes

NEARLY 80 per cent of households in Lambeth, south London, will be worse off under the poll tax than under the rates system, councillors said as they met last night to complete what was expected to be the country's second highest rate.

According to the results of a MORI opinion poll published by the council, three-quarters of residents disapprove of the community charge. But 72 per cent, including 76 per cent of owner-occupiers, support a policy of setting a budget which would maintain services at their present level, with only 16 per cent calling

for cuts. The councillors were discussing a proposed poll tax figure of £547.89 recommended by their policy and resources committee, which was well under the original estimate of £650.

That would put Lambeth in second place behind the London borough of Haringey, which set a poll tax of £572 earlier this month.

Mrs Joan Twelves, leader of the Lambeth council, denied that the figure was intended as a gesture of defiance against the Government, which will use its guideline figure of £308 for the borough if the Secretary of State for the Environ-

ment decides that the council should be capped.

One of the 18 rebel West Oxfordshire Tories who resigned the Conservative whip over high poll tax demands and council house rents has rejoined the party.

Talks are to be held next Monday in an attempt to persuade others to return.

Mrs Phyllis Bradd, deputy mayor of Witney, said she was returning to the Tory group on West Oxfordshire district council after four weeks as an independent because she felt that the Chancellor, Mr John Major, had taken notice of the protest.

Most of us are expected to learn from experience of history and we cannot do that unless we know it."

With the working party on the new National Curriculum expected to publish its final report next week, Mrs Thatcher lent her support to facts.

She supports the views of the senior academics and peers who formed the National History Curriculum Association to press for a greater emphasis on factual knowledge in classroom history.

They are hoping to challenge the "empathy school"

who believe that it is more important for a child to know

what it was like to have been a Roman soldier than when the first legions arrived.

While Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, is sympathetic with the Prime Minister, *The Times Education Supplement* reports

today that the history working party's report will shy away from explicitly requiring "factual knowledge" of events to be tested. The decision about how the courses are assessed rests with the Government.

According to the paper, Mr MacGregor is planning to publish the working party's report with a covering letter insisting that pupils' factual knowledge will be tested.

Sources close to Mr MacGregor said yesterday that they would be surprised if there was not a good deal of controversy surrounding the publication of the report: "History is by far the most difficult of political subjects."

With a number of the resolutions, tabled for the council voicing unhappiness at the presentation of the Government's case, Mr Baker will tackle the issues seen to be of greatest concern: interest rates and the poll tax.

He will issue a strong defence of both while emphasising the Government's readiness to listen to the concerns of the party and the electorate. Mr Baker will say high interest rates are essential to bring back low inflation.

The Tory chairman, the Prime Minister and other senior ministers will use speeches at the Conservative Central Council in Cheltenham today and tomorrow to begin reviving party morale and urge it to look beyond present difficulties to preparing to win the general election.

In another debate today Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government, will underline the Government's readiness to look at improvements to the poll tax system. It is already considering a revision of standard spending assessments in the hope of making bills less fearsome next year in the run-up to an election.

MR Kenneth Baker will today

urge the Conservative Party to hold its nerve in the face of opinion polls showing a record Labour lead and deep concern in the country about high interest rates and the community charge.

Mrs Thatcher told MPs during question time that: "Most of us are expected to learn from experience of history and we cannot do that unless we know it."

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## Pilot death statistics provoke new study

Sixty per cent of commercial airline pilots die before the age of 65, according to surveys carried out in Britain, South America and Canada (Harvey Elliott writes).

Pilots' union leaders are so alarmed by the statistics, compiled from pension fund records, that they have launched a worldwide study to try to establish what is causing the early deaths.

More than 70,000 professional pilots will be asked about their stress levels, drinking and smoking habits, and even whether their sex lives are satisfactory in a questionnaire sent out by the International Federation of Airline Pilots Association.

## Illegitimacy up

Illegitimacy is on the increase, according to figures released yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. More than a quarter of babies were born outside marriage in England and Wales in 1988, accounting for 23.6 per cent of live births, compared with 10.2 per cent in 1978.

## No prosecution

A Royal Ulster Constabulary officer who fired a plastic bullet which killed a boy aged 13 during republican riots in Belfast will not be prosecuted. The Director of Public Prosecutions directed against action after the death last August of Seamus Duffy, the RUC said last night.

## Farm fund fight

Brin's farmers said yesterday they had been denied a £50 million boost in income by the collapse of negotiations in Luxembourg on the fixing of European Community farm prices for the 1990 harvest. A compromise package included a three-fifths devaluation of the "green pound".

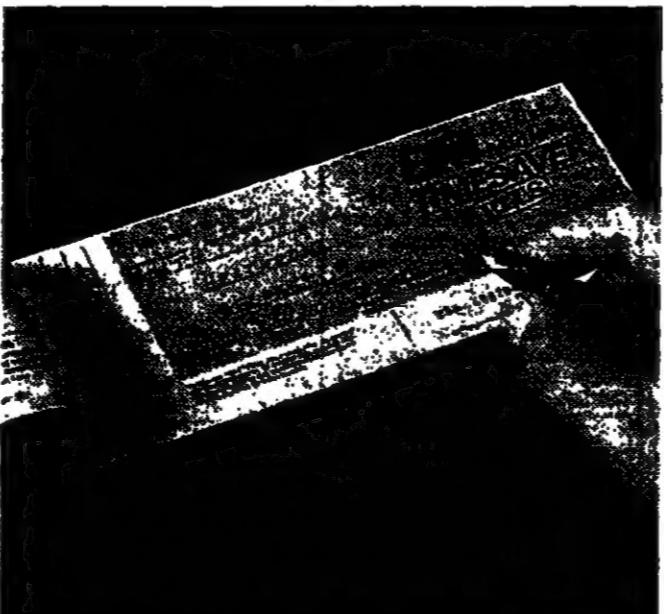
## Reid retires

Sir Robert Reid, chairman of British Rail, retires today, aged 69, after serving BR for 43 years. His post will be taken by Mr Robert Reid, former chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, who begins as a part-time non-executive chairman before assuming full-time responsibility in October.

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# Palumbo proposes state funding for care of cathedrals

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

ENGLISH Heritage and the Arts Council look certain to clash over proposals put forward by Mr Peter Palumbo, the council's chairman, which appear to usurp responsibility for some historic buildings.

Mr Palumbo, in an article in *The Times* today, says the Arts Council should take responsibility for the welfare of cultural buildings in England to get the nation's historic buildings in top condition in time for the new millennium.

In particular he selects cathedrals as being in need of state care.

English Heritage, formally the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, is responsible to the Department of the Environment for built heritage in England.

The Arts Council is funded separately by the Office of Arts and Libraries.

In his article, however, Mr Palumbo writes: "The stock of buildings that constitute the cultural fabric of the nation, including cathedrals, leave much to be desired in terms of their structural condition and essential artistic facilities."

"The council will quantify necessary repair and buildings projects to construct a policy for the cultural fabric of the nation for completion by the millennium."

"I hope that the Government will agree to meet a substantial part of the cost of any such programme."

The rest would come from the private sector.

Last night Mr Palumbo said he was anxious that the 42

cathedrals in the country should receive government help in repairing their fabric. "I am aware that English Heritage believes the cathedrals are capable of raising their own funds for reparation, but it takes too long. I think that had to be done in 10 years, not in 50."

He believes it could cost £50 million a year to get the great medieval cathedrals, such as Salisbury, Worcester, Lincoln and Hereford, into shape by the millennium.

It is understood that English

Heritage has made its own attempts to get funds for the cathedrals, but more in the realm of £5 million to £8 million a year.

English Heritage, in a frosty response to Mr Palumbo's proposals, said: "While we welcome any interest in the state of this country's historic buildings as the public body responsible for funding the repair of our built heritage, we would, of course, expect the Arts Council to come and consult with us over any ideas they may have."

Mr Palumbo, just a year in the chair at the Arts Council, said: "I have not talked to English Heritage about this, but I have talked to a lot of other people. It seems the right thing to do."

The maverick approach to new proposals with which Mr Palumbo has been identified is thought to have contributed to the decision of Mr Luke Rittner, the Arts Council secretary general, to resign.

However, he refused to make any comment on his

decision when he gave the briefing on the Arts Council's monthly meeting yesterday. By a coincidence, it also fell to Mr Rittner to announce the council's decision to back its chairman over the restructuring of the council and arts funding as announced by Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts. Mr Rittner disagrees with the restructuring.

Mr Palumbo said in his statement that he welcomed the three main factors in the minister's decisions, announced two weeks ago: the devolution of many funding responsibilities to the regions, the strengthening of accountability from the regions to the Arts Council and a new strategy and policy-making role for the council.

"I see it as the council's duty now to carry out this work," Mr Rittner found himself saying on his chairman's behalf.

For his own part, he praised the work of the Arts Council. "The artistic life of the nation is created by the artist, and the Arts Council has played an incredibly important part in creating the right conditions for artists. I am only sorry the arts are not enjoyed by a wider cross-section of the nation."

Mr Rittner leaves his post with the council at the end of next month. He said his successor would need "certainly a sense of humour, certainly a reasonably thick skin, but not so thick that you become unfeeling, certainly an absolute commitment to the arts. That is what makes the interminable bureaucracy and



John Chapman

meetings possible."

The Northern Ballet Theatre, threatened with closure last year when the Arts Council considered stopping its funding, is almost certain to move across the Pennines from Manchester to Halifax,

with the approval of the Arts Council, at the end of its 1990 season. "There are still some final decisions to be made by local committees in Yorkshire, but its beginning to look almost certain," Mr Stephen Revell, Northern Ballet's

administrator, said. Yesterday

the Arts Council announced that it would continue funding the company after 1991 at the present level of £700,000 a year.

Palumbo proposals, page 14

## Doctors' role in sale of kidneys found proved

By John Young

TWO surgeons and a physician took part in the sale of kidneys for transplant operations, the General Medical Council ruled yesterday.

The professional conduct committee, however, has still to decide whether the actions of the transplant surgeon, Mr Michael Bewick, the urologist Mr Michael Joyce and the Harley Street specialist Dr Raymond Crockett constituted serious professional misconduct.

It is unlikely to reach a verdict until the middle of next week, after hearing lawyers' submissions. If the doctors are found guilty, they could face a range of penalties from admonishment to being struck off the register.

Dr Crockett was found to have arranged a number of operations between June 1 and November 30, 1988 for the removal of kidneys from Mr Ferhat Usta, Mr Ahmet Koch, Mrs Hatice Anukyan and Mr Coskun Yenici for trans-

plantation. He knew that none of the donors was related to the recipient and that there was no close and enduring relationship between them.

Dr Crockett allegedly failed to establish that financial or other improper inducements or payments had not been made and would not be made, and that the patient understood the risks involved and the possible complications and after effects.

He failed to procure valid consent in writing from any of the donors and was found to have acquiesced in the sale of human organs.

Dr Crockett was also found to have improperly given cheques to Mr Ata Nur Kunir, representing sums of money to be paid to Mr Usta and Mr Koch for their kidneys.

An allegation that he initiated, sanctioned or acquiesced in the publication of an advertisement in the Egyptian newspaper *Al Ahram* offering payments for kidneys was not proved. But the committee



Kidney transplant trio: Dr Raymond Crockett, Mr Michael Bewick and Mr Michael Joyce

found that he had condoned its publication by causing or permitting his secretary to answer inquiries relating to it.

Both Mr Joyce and Mr Bewick were found to have carried out a number of transplant operations at the Humana Wellington Hospital, St John's Wood, north London between June 1 and November 30, 1988 by arrangement with Dr Crockett.

Each had failed to establish before the operations that financial or other improper inducements or payments had

not been made; whether the patient and recipient were related or had a close and enduring relationship; the circumstances in which the patient's kidney was being provided for transplantation; and that the patient understood the risks involved and the possible complications and after effects.

They had also failed to procure an informed and valid consent in writing or adequately to discuss the proposed operation with the patient. Mr Joyce, who during

the hearing broke down and admitted the allegations, was found to have unwittingly taken part in the sale of human organs.

Dr Bewick was found to have taken part in their sale, the word "unwittingly" not appearing in the allegation.

Mr Bewick was also found to have transplanted a cadaver kidney from a National Health Service patient into a private patient on November 19, 1988 and to have knowingly given false information to Dr David Taube, consultant nephrologist at Dulwich Hospital renal unit, by telling him that the kidney would be transplanted into a health service patient.

The hearing which is the longest and most expensive in the council's history, began in early December but has been interrupted by several pre-arranged adjournments.

Sir Robert Koch told the hearing that he had come to London under the impression that he was going to be offered a job and that he did not know his kidney was to be removed until he woke up in hospital after the operation.

However, an allegation that Dr Crockett had failed to establish whether Mr Koch - who did not speak, read, write or understand English - understood that he was to undergo an operation was not proved.

Mr Bewick claimed it was based on information given by Mrs Peacock to two freelance journalists. The story was then confirmed by a staff reporter, Mr James Steen, aged 24.

The newspaper, which is seeking leave to appeal against the exemplary damages said after the case: "Today has always maintained its belief in the integrity of the journalist who published the story and continues to do so."

Mr David Montgomery, the editor, said the newspaper's decision to challenge the exemplary damages was to "clear the name of a young, decent reporter who is accused of inventing a story". The reporter had been told of the incident and reported it in good faith.

Four witnesses - as against one for Lord Linley - supported the newspaper's case. "We now have a fifth witness," Mr Montgomery said.

The general damages of £5,000 were "desirous in the light of huge awards recently", he said. "Our reporter's reputation is worth more than £5,000 and Today will fight to restore it." Lord Linley, aged

28, who left the court by the judge's exit to avoid a crowd of reporters, sued the newspaper's publishers News (UK) Ltd.

The judge refused a request by counsel for the newspaper for the usual 28-day order freezing payment of the £30,000 exemplary damages, granting instead only seven days.

He said: "I am not reluctant in appropriate circumstances to grant stays. This seems to me to be so evidently a question of who the jury believed in this matter."

*Today*, which paid £125 for the story, will have to pay costs estimated at £75,000.

Lord Linley had told the court of his "hurt and anger" when he read the story.

He denied ever indulging in boorish behaviour or arrogantly throwing his money about. There was no question of him ever throwing beer.

He said he felt incredibly angry when he saw the story. "I have a lot of press comment on a lot of things, so one hardens oneself to a certain amount of inaccuracy, but this was completely untrue. I felt they had gone too far."

Lord Linley, who runs his own business, David Linley Furniture, and has a shop in New King's Road, Fulham, west London, near the Ferret and Firkin, said one of his first thoughts was that his family would read the article and that it could have a damaging effect on them.

He also feared that any customer about to place a large order with his company might "at worst" not place the order or might "take a very dim view" because of the story.

Lord Linley's QC had told the jury that the decision by a member of the Royal Family to "run the gauntlet" of a court hearing was not an easy one to take.

Mrs Carolyn Peacock, the manageress of the Ferret and Firkin public house, who was given by the newspaper as the source of the story, adamantly denied it to me.

"That being so, I considered it right to include in the action a claim for exemplary damages to enable this matter to be put to the jury for them to decide who invented the story. This has now been done."

Mr Justice Michael Davies had told the jury, which took 4½ hours to reach a unanimous verdict, that it could award exemplary damages if it found the story had been invented.

While admitting the article, published in the Chris Hutchins' *Confidential* column on March 28 last year, was untrue, *Today* claimed it was based on information given by Mrs Peacock to two freelance journalists. The story was then confirmed by a staff reporter, Mr James Steen, aged 24.

The newspaper, which is seeking leave to appeal against the exemplary damages said after the case: "Today has always maintained its belief in the integrity of the journalist who published the story and continues to do so."

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## Lord Linley wins £35,000 over public house libel

By Michael Horsnell

LORD Linley was awarded £35,000 damages yesterday over a newspaper story that suggested he was an "upper-class lager lout" by reporting he had been banned from a London public house for throwing beer.

The award to the first member of the Royal Family to bring a libel action to court included £30,000 exemplary damages designed to express disapproval at the newspaper's conduct.

The High Court jury rejected the defence by *Today* newspaper that it acted in good faith in publishing the story after checking a tip-off about the alleged incident with the manageress of the public house.

The Queen's nephew looked delighted when the jury of four men and eight women announced the award and shook the hand of his counsel, Mr Charles Gray, QC.

He later issued a statement saying "I decided to issue proceedings in respect of the story in *Today* newspaper because it was a complete invention and my request for the publication of an immediate apology was refused."

"Mrs Carolyn Peacock, the manageress of the Ferret and Firkin public house, who was given by the newspaper as the source of the story, adamantly denied it to me."

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## Father and sons jailed for kidnap of sunbed salesman

By David Sapsted

A HAULAGE company chief and his two sons were jailed yesterday for a plot to send a "pushy" sunbed salesman to Poland, bound and gagged in the back of a lorry.

Mr Ewart Nash cut himself free with the broken metallic strap on his wrist watch, Gloucester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Nash had been put in the lorry by Harold Williams and his sons Timothy and Paul after a dispute over a £541 sunbed which he said Timothy's wife, Jane, had agreed to buy.

Timothy had demanded a refund and told Mr Nash he was going to make him eat his dirty wellingtons, the court was told; but his father suggested they should instead send Mr Nash to Poland.

Mr Nash was said to have been bound and taken in the

boot of a Mercedes to a Gloucestershire lorry park. There, he was put into the canvas-sided trailer; but wriggled free and used the broken watch strap to cut himself out.

Harold Williams, aged 54, of Valence, Gloucestershire, was jailed for three years: Timothy Williams, aged 25, for 2½ years; and Paul Williams, aged 24, for one year after a "trial of issues" in which the defendants admitted kidnapping but contested the facts.

Judge Hutton said: "I have little doubt that the salesman was pushy. But that is no possible excuse for what you did. There is no room for self-help in this country. That is where anarchy sets in."

&lt;p

# Missing case files hold back inquiry into police squad

By Craig Seton

THE police investigation into the activities of the now-disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad is being made more difficult because files, important documents and officers' pocket books are missing, the officer leading the inquiry said yesterday.

Members of the investigation into allegations that officers fabricated evidence are still searching for 31 out of 658 files dating from 1986 and documents missing from files.

Mr Donald Shaw, the assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, who is leading the inquiry, told a press conference in Birmingham that 14 police pocket books were missing although it was a disciplinary offence for officers not to keep them.

The Police Complaints Authority, which is supervising the £1 million investigation, said yesterday that no "sinister" conclusions could be drawn at this stage because of the missing documents, but it acknowledged that their absence would hinder inquiries.

The authority said it was particularly concerned about the missing pocket books, because they should be available for at least seven years. Some custody records had also been lost because of the West Midlands force's policy of shredding them after two years.

The inquiry, which began last August and is expected to last another year, is examining 76 complaints, 37 from people still in prison. It is also looking at the activities of 124 police officers, 49 from the serious

crime squad and 75 from West Midlands police and at least four other forces. The officers under scrutiny include a chief superintendent.

Sixteen people are seeking leave to appeal against their convictions or have indicated they intend to do so. Many of the complaints have arisen from the 754 arrests made by the squad from January 1986 until its winding up last August.

The 49 former serious crime

squad officers have been issued with 240 Regulation 7 notices, which are served when a complaint is made against an officer. The other 75 officers have been served with 127 notices.

Mr Shaw said allegations that evidence had been fabricated had been a factor in all the complaints, but publicity concerning the inquiry may have encouraged "spurious" complaints, possibly generated by a "copycat" trend.

He denied there was any suggestion of a "conspiracy of silence" by former members of the squad.

"I cannot say whether the complaints are genuine or not. The picture emerging is of a lot of serious allegations against the serious crime squad. Given the massive publicity focused upon the squad, is it really surprising there are a lot of complaints? It is an emotive subject."

"Our report will be based on hard clinical evidence admissible in a court or at a disciplinary hearing."

Mr Roland Moyle, deputy chairman of the Police Com-

plaints Authority, told the press conference that the missing files would hinder the inquiry to some extent and he referred to the need for "healthy suspicion".

He said that not all the missing pocket books related to former officers of the serious crime squad. Mr Moyle also emphasized that Regulation 7 notices had been served on the 124 officers even where there was the slightest suspicion.

The action was taken because prosecutions against 24 police officers arising out of disorder at the News International plant at Wapping, east London, in 1986, had been lost because the Regulation 7 notices were judged to have been served too late.

Mr Moyle said the inquiry would consider the possibility of racial discrimination as 30 of the 76 complainants were Asian or Afro-Caribbean. The rest were white and two were women.

The serious crime squad was disbanded last summer by Mr Geoffrey Dear, the chief constable of the West Midlands, after allegations of fabricated evidence led to the collapse of the prosecution in several court cases.

Mr Dear asked Mr Shaw to investigate the squad from 1986 onwards. He moved 53 detectives to non-operational duties to give the inquiry a "clear run". The inquiry, the largest supervised by the complaints authority since it was set up five years ago, may look at cases going back to April 1984.

"Our report will be based on hard clinical evidence admissible in a court or at a disciplinary hearing."

Mr Roland Moyle, deputy chairman of the Police Com-

## Recorded offences show 4% increase

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

OFFENCES recorded by the police in England and Wales increased by 4 per cent in 1989, almost obliterating progress made in 1988 which raised hopes that the tide had turned.

The total number of offences last year rose by 154,000, largely stemming from increases in property crime. There were an extra 81,000 recorded cases of theft, 36,000 of criminal damage, 24,000 involving violent offences and 8,000 burglaries.

Since 1979 recorded crime has risen by an average of 5 per cent a year. However, evidence supplied by the Home Office's *British Crime Survey*, based on face-to-face interviews with 10,000 households, suggests that the real level of increase has been around 3 per cent.

The Home Office claimed yesterday that a significant part of the increase was due to improved reporting of crime, particularly of rape, child abuse and domestic violence.

## Britain gets measure of world crime

THE broad crime rate in England and Wales is lower than in North America and many West European countries, and there are fewer violent offences, according to a survey published yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

The survey, expected to become an important reference source for criminologists, is based on telephone interviews with a weighted sample of 2,000 people in 14 countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Britain and 10 other European states. It is the first attempt to produce a standardized way of comparing crime rates. Respondents were asked to give details of crimes that affected them in the five years to the spring of 1989.

From their replies, said to give a truer picture of crime than analysis of cases reported to police or recorded by them, researchers produced a percentage "victimization rate".

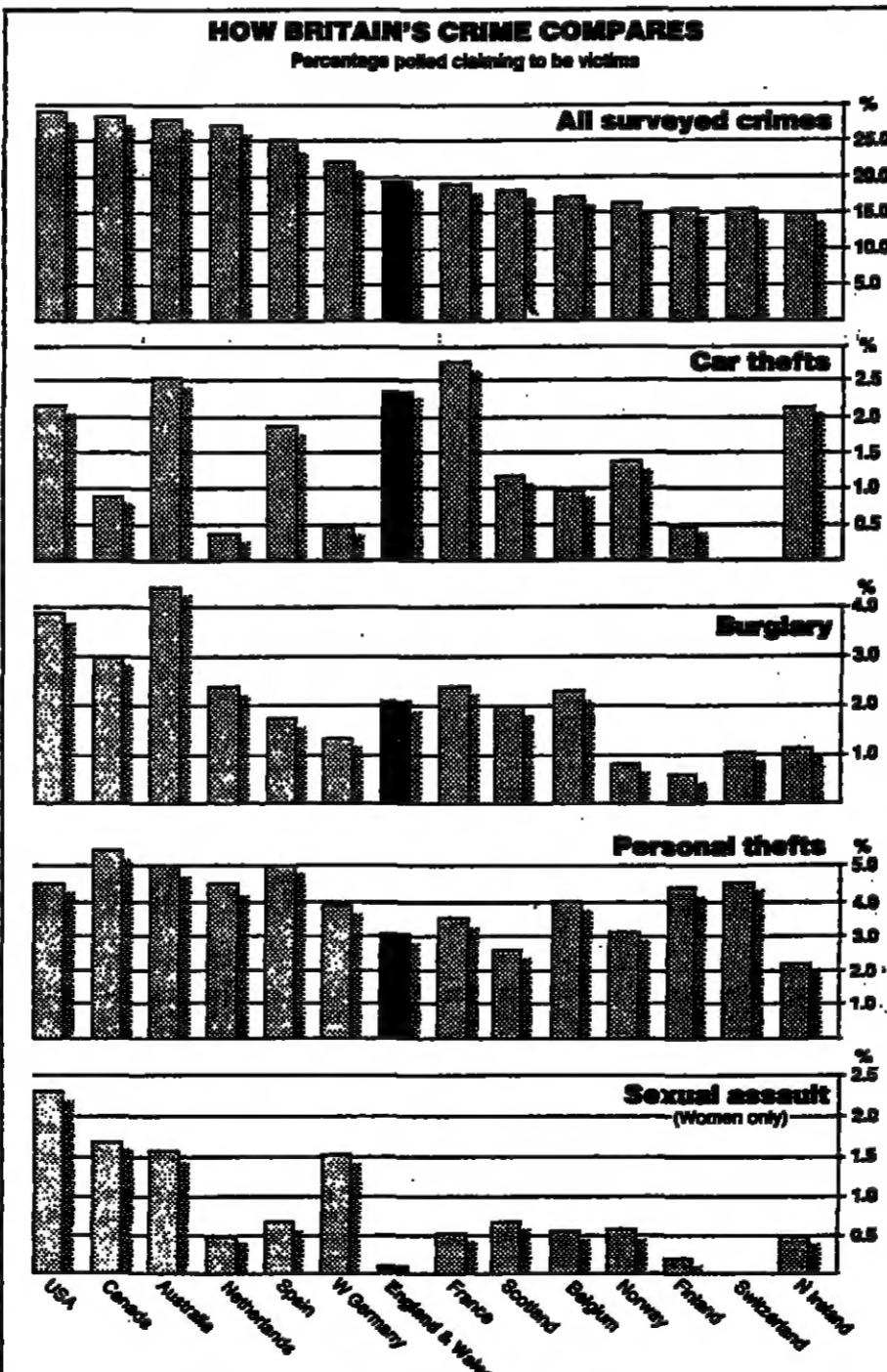
The survey indicates that 46 per cent of people in England and Wales were the victims of a crime over the five years, the fifth lowest among the countries involved in the survey. Northern Ireland had the lowest rate at 33.4 per cent, while Scotland was one place below England and Wales with 41.4 per cent.

The Netherlands recorded the highest rate, with 60.4 per cent, followed by the United States, 57.6 per cent, Australia 57.2 per cent, and Canada, 53 per cent.

Analysis of crimes committed in 1988 found that the United States had the worst record, with nearly 30 per cent of the sample having been the victim of a crime during the year. The rate for England and Wales was 19.4 per cent, just below average and higher than the figures for West Germany, Spain and The Netherlands.

The risk of burglary, according to the survey, is about average in England, Wales and Scotland, but considerably lower in Northern Ireland. People in Britain also appear to be less vulnerable to assaults and sexual offences than in many other countries.

This outcome of the survey is expected to cause some satisfaction at the Home Office, which has long argued that public perceptions about violent crime have been shaped too much by reported cases. It found that during 1988 assaults and frightening



threats were highest in the three non-European countries, while incidents in Britain were among the lowest. Force was used in less than half the cases in England and Wales, which had the lowest rate for assaults involving force.

In terms of sexual crimes in 1988, Scotland and England and Wales had the second lowest rate, with just 1.15 per cent of respondents saying they had been a victim. Finland had the lowest rate.

The survey's comparative assessment of fear of crime, a problem particularly acute for women, found anxiety was strongest in West Germany, England and Wales and the United States. The report was commissioned by three international experts on crime, the police's response to crime. This was above the average for

cent of respondents saying they had been a victim. Finland had the lowest rate.

Britain was also below average for the number of crimes involving cars. Further encouraging news is provided by finding that more than 70 per cent of people in England and Wales are satisfied with the police's response to crime. This was above the average for

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# Ilea quits County Hall in flurry of mixed metaphors

By Alan Franks

**IN THE** emptying corridors of County Hall on the South Bank in London, headquarters of the Inner London Education Authority, they are mixing their metaphors in a way even the most liberal English teacher would deplore. "The show hits the iceberg full tilt tomorrow"; and "At midnight on Saturday the place turns into a pumkin", are two good examples.

It is not hard to forgive the dwindling band of officials their jumbled imagery, for this is the last working day of an authority which can trace its origins back more than 130 years and which has spent the past 18 months assisting in its own demise.

If the bitterness is muted, that is partly because most of the victims of the abolition have gone, leaving a skeleton staff to answer the phones that still ring and the post that still arrives. Where once there were nearly 3,000 people serving 1,037 schools in 13 boroughs with 17,711 teachers and 282,445 pupils, the bulk of which would come from Japanese sources.

Tomorrow night there will be a final commemorative party, a wake to which, in the words of Mr Ron Alexander,

## Albert Hall requiem

THOUSANDS of school children will gather in the Albert Hall to celebrate a requiem to the end of 120 years of centrally planned education in the capital tonight (Sam Kiley writes).

The event, organized in its dying moments by the Inner London Education Authority, is intended as a "celebration of what the authority has done for the arts". Children will perform in Ilea-funded orchestra, dance troupes, choirs and brass bands.

Others will stage a play, based on education in the city since 1870, at the Bloomsbury Theatre.

the chief press officer, the 58 members "will come as elected representatives and leave as ordinary citizens".

By now the recriminations about the way in which the abolition was achieved by Mr Neil Fletcher, the Ilea leader, consider it an act of ignorance rather than of malice - have given way to fears for the future of education in the capital.

Sitting in his vast room on the first floor, Mr Fletcher says he expects the full effects of transferring responsibility to the 13 boroughs will not be felt for about four years.

"To begin with, the Government's transitional grant will enable the authorities to continue at more or less the same levels of spending," he reasons. "But after that, and as the poll tax safety net tapers off, there will be substantial cuts. By 1995 I estimate that spending on education in London will be 20 per cent lower than at present."

"I also believe that there is a further agenda of cuts beyond that. For the past 10 years we have been told that our expenditure is 40 per cent above government targets - about

£1 billion a year as opposed to £600 million. One can only speculate on what this would mean for all the various provisions which, as a large regional body, Ilea has been able to offer."

The second great uncertainty surrounds the building itself as the outcome of a public inquiry, the second on the future of County Hall, is awaited. The central problem for the developers is whether they can overcome the objection that the building is legally protected from being used for purposes other than local government.

Even if County Hall, nicknamed Heartbreak Hotel in Ilea's terminal months, is recruited to the tourist industry, there are doubts about its viability. During the next 10 years the area between Waterloo Station and the Thames is likely to live in a state of upheaval, with the construction of the Jubilee Line extension, the demolition of Elizabeth House and the development of access to the Channel Tunnel rail link.

Mr Fletcher and his colleagues still nurse the hope that the immobile hulk will one day be resurrected as an administrative headquarters for education in London.

For the past year and a half not even the heat of Labour rhetoric has been able to melt the iceberg which looms today. Only time will tell whether it has the formula for turning pumpkins back into carriages.

Leading article, page 11  
Letters, page 11



A cleaner taking care of final details as Ilea reluctantly vacates its vast premises

## Motorists told of night sight hazards

By Michael Dykes  
Transport Correspondent

AN estimated 10 million people in Britain are suffering from low-luminance myopia - more popularly but inaccurately known as "night blindness" - according to research carried out by Professor Paul Cook, a laser scientist at Brunel University.

The condition, which affects one person in five, encompasses two distinct ailments, twilight myopia, resulting in a marked reduction in visual perception in dim light and fog, and night myopia, resulting in reduced visual perception at night.

An article in the *Journal of Alternative & Complementary Medicine*, says that as most road accidents occur at twilight and during the winter months Professor Cook's findings have serious implications for millions of motorists.

"At twilight, some affected drivers do realize that they are seeing things slightly blurrily, but as the night deepens, they begin to think that their vision has actually improved. Nothing could be further from the truth."

"This is a dangerous condition, especially for those whose livelihood depends on a great deal of night-time driving, such as long-distance lorry drivers and travelling salesmen," the article says.

Professor Cook believes that as many as one in five airline pilots could also suffer from this condition, pointing to the number of cases where pilots have mistaken a motorway for a runway in much the same way as motorists have mistaken house driveways for road junctions.

While doing his research Professor Cook developed a diagnostic device known as a Night Vision LaserSpec, which is capable of identifying the condition and rectifying it with a special pair of night-time lenses.

Motorists who suspect they suffer from one of these ailments have been advised that they may be driving outside the law, and are urged to have their day and night-time vision tested.

Nursing staff who have been

## Thousands of nurses appeal over regrading

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A THOUSAND appeals a month are being referred to regional health authorities concerning nurses who claim they were unfairly regraded 18 months ago, the Royal College of Nursing said yesterday.

Miss Val Cowie, director of labour relations at the college, told its annual congress in Brighton that an estimated 11,550 cases were still outstanding at regional level, and that thousands more were being heard by districts.

An estimated 60,000 to 75,000 nurses out of the 450,000 nursing workforce have appealed against the grades they were given after the Government's clinical regrading exercise in September 1988, Miss Cowie said. Of these, about 20 per cent had been successful.

The National Association of Health Authorities estimates that districts have had to pay out £48 million to fund successful appeals, for which they have been given no extra central cash.

Miss Christine Hancock, the general secretary at the college, said this could be a factor leading to redundancies.

Although Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said at the time that he expected all appeals to be heard by April 1989, Miss Cowie predicted yesterday the procedures would take at least another 18 months.

Figures collected by the



Miss Cowie: "Regions get 1,000 appeals a month"

## Split over spent convictions

NURSES yesterday shelved a decision on whether to press for a change in the law to allow nurses to conceal "spent" criminal convictions when they applied for jobs (Jill Sherman writes).

Nurses and other health professionals are not covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Under the Act most former offenders are not required to admit their convictions if they are in prison for less than 30 months and the offence occurred between five or 10 years previously, depending on the crime.

Nursing staff who have been

convicted of criminal offences, however long ago and however trivial the offence, have to declare that when they are applying for posts.

Yet delegates were divided on whether the Act should be extended to cover nurses, arguing that while many nurses were being discriminated against unfairly and that type of crime should not be hidden.

However Mr Alan Glasper, from the Society of Paediatric Nurses, said a senior nurse in a hospital had been convicted of child sex abuse and that type of crime should not be hidden.

Mr Doug Cronie, from Blackpool, said if a nurse had been tried and convicted, he or she should have to reveal it.

Delegates decided to refer the motion to the college's council.

often found it virtually impossible to get jobs. One nurse applied for 60 posts before the Royal College of Nursing intervened and enabled her to get work.

Afterwards Mr Alan Glasper, from the Society of Paediatric Nurses, said a senior nurse in a hospital had been convicted of child sex abuse and that type of crime should not be hidden.

Mr Doug Cronie, from Blackpool, said if a nurse had been tried and convicted, he or she should have to reveal it.

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health, good for the heart, good for the blood pressure. We can't stop snoring. Nobody wants to snore but no one has found a way to stop it."

After a 40-minute adjournment, the magistrates ruled that a nuisance had been caused but decided not to award costs, which were said to be substantial.

After the hearing, Mr Lawrence said he was considering an appeal on a point of law. "This doesn't constitute an actionable nuisance and therefore the finding was wrong. It was a natural act," he said.

Mrs Phillips was not in court yesterday but her daughter, Valerie, who lives with her, said: "My mother's snoring doesn't worry me. Do I look like a woman who has sleepless nights?"

Mrs Davies, who said she and her neighbour were no longer on speaking terms, said after the case: "For the first time for a long time we have been able to get a good night's sleep. We have been completely vindicated. We have had to put up with this for a long time."

## Snoring declared illegal nuisance

By Peter Davenport

THE snores of Mrs Florence Phillips, a widow aged 87, earned her an unwanted place in legal history yesterday when magistrates ruled that the nocturnal noises emanating from her bedroom contravened the Control of Pollution Act.

However, they rejected a claim for costs from Mr Basil Davies and his wife Sandra, who went to court to try to silence their neighbour.

Mrs Davies, aged 41, claimed that the snores that regularly rumbled up to their flat from that of Mrs Phillips below had caused a deterioration in the health of her 71-year-old husband, who suffered from a heart condition.

At a previous hearing, Mrs Davies had told Leeds magistrates that she had allied community constable and a doctor to try to restore harmony to their nights; but Mrs Phillips had refused to co-operate with any suggestions to improve matters.

He said: "Snoring is a natural phenomenon. We're told it's good for the

## Dynamite firm fined for deaths in blast

A leading explosives company was fined £100,000 with £30,000 costs yesterday as a result of a massive blast at a dynamite factory in which two workers were killed.

The court was told that workers mixing explosives to make dynamite took short cuts in procedure.

A series of explosions hit the Cooke's Explosives Works at Pemphreydwrath, North Wales, in June 1988. The mixing building was demolished and others wrecked.

### Chess wins

All the favourites won their games in the first round of Britain's premier international junior chess tournament at Oakham School in Rutland. They included Michael Adams, the British champion from Truro, and David Norwood, of Bolton.

### Derby remand

Lee Chapman, the Leeds United footballer, and Robert Huntley, 34, of Sheffield, were remanded on unconditional bail at Derby Magistrates' Court to June 15 for a committal hearing. They are accused of demanding £4,000 with menaces.

### Ships ordered

Orders for three liquid gas carriers worth £40 million have been won by the Richard Dunston shipyard at Hessle, near Hull. The Unigas consortium contract is the largest for a Humberside shipyard.

### Light fingers

Thieves stole a £15,000 life-sized bronze statue of a woman from the garden of a gallery at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. The statue by Faith Winter weighs ¾ of a tonne.

### 100 years

Mr Bob Nickerson, who was one of the few to survive the sinking of the Lusitania by a German submarine in 1915, celebrated his 100th birthday at Bacton, Norfolk, yesterday.

### Tour campaign

A campaign to attract more visitors to the industrial valleys of South Wales has been launched by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales.

### Pit closes

Donisthorpe Colliery, the last of 12 pits in South Derbyshire, closes today because of losses. Its 620 miners have been offered retirement or other jobs.

## Fraud Squad inquiry into council's computer firms

By David Sapsford

FRAUD Squad officers are to investigate the transfer of multimillion-pound computer and property operations from a Conservative-controlled district council in Wiltshire to private firms run by the authority's senior officers.

Yesterday's decision by Wiltshire police comes after the publication of a critical report by a government-appointed district auditor into the deals carried out by an "inner core" of senior councillors and officers at West Wiltshire District Council based in Trowbridge.

At a council meeting on Wednesday, opposition members demanded the resignation of seven councillors, including five former chairmen of the authority, named in the interim report by Mr Alan Elliott, deputy chief constable of Wiltshire, said yesterday. "From the information supplied to me

this week I am satisfied that there are grounds to institute a police investigation into activities involving West Wiltshire Information Systems (WWIS) and West Wiltshire Holdings.

The former is a private computer company which took over the authority's successful software operation at a loss to the poll tax-payers, according to a Labour Party report, of more than £20 million over five years; the latter is a property and development company wholly owned by the council and presently being wound up.

Mr Gerald Garland, who resigned as the council's chief executive last year, has been managing director of WWIS since its creation in 1988.

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## PARLIAMENT

DENZIL MCNEELAND

# 'Most despised' tax comes under Opposition fire

A bitter attack on the community charge and the Government's handling of rebates for those on income support was launched in the Commons by Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social security.

Moving amendment of proposed amendments to the community charge rebate system, including the Budget cuts on capital limits, he said that the poll tax was the most despised tax that had been introduced in Britain in the past 60 years.

The regulations were laying down showed that it was hell-bent on a campaign of self-destruction.

The great concession announced in the Budget was a giant political confidence trick. Conservative MPs who waved their Order Papers when the concession was announced were now faced with the cold reality of minimum relief that would disappoint and anger many pensioners.

Pensioners' expectations had been raised by the Budget but then dashed.

A Labour amendment to the Social Security Bill, that would have doubled the minimum threshold on which full rebates could be paid to couples, was rejected last night by more than 100 votes. That demonstrated that Conservative MPs were more concerned to prop up a Government that was on the ropes rather than protecting pensioners.

It was a bitter irony that the Tory Government, which introduced a new system two years ago to reduce spending on housing benefit and rate rebates,

## THE POLL TAX

THE regulations implement the Chancellor's announcement on capital limits for income-related benefits. The capital cut-off point at which people no longer qualify for community charge and house benefit is raised from £3,000 to £16,000. For those on income support and family credit, the capital limit can still be paid and yet benefit is raised from £6,000 to £8,000.

The average poll tax payer on income support in England and Wales would have to find £36 a year from their basic benefit. A couple would have to find almost £76. In 34 local authorities, couples on income support would be more than £2 a week worse off.

"The steady extortion of money from the poorest in society to subsidize the cost of the poll tax is the most repulsive aspect of this most repulsive tax."

Why was the Government so "gung ho" about pursuing the one million low-income families when it refused to take action against landlords who were evicting large sums by continuing to chase for rents without allowing for the fact they no longer paid rates?

This regulation to extract tiny amounts from the pores of the most debt-ridden community was an abomination and should be rejected.

Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister for Social Security, said that if the Government was to help those most in need there must be a cut-off point. Any income related to the first £3,000 of capital was ignored for benefit entitlement.

Labour, which was so critical of the Government, had operated a capital rule which came in at a lower level and then imposed a steeper tariff above it.

Doubling the capital limit for community charge would help 200,000 individuals, of whom 150,000 were pensioners. Some 65,000 couples would be helped.

Letters, page 11

## 'We would do same again'

GIVEN her time over again, Mrs Thatcher would still introduce the poll tax. In a question-and-answer session with Mr Neil Kinnock, she said the community charge was infinitely preferable to Labour's proposals.

Mr Kinnock, opening the exchanges, asked: If the Prime Minister had her time over again, would she still introduce poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes.

Mr Kinnock: I am very grateful for that reply. Can she tell us whether, if they had their time over again, Conservative MPs would vote for poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. It is

infinitely preferable to rating revaluation, which would put a colossal burden on half of the people in a local government area, and infinitely preferable to the Labour roof tax and local income tax.

Mr Kinnock: She must be the last person in the country who believes all that claptrap.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Kinnock keeps silent about his own policy. When he enunciates a policy it is always sky-high.

Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley, Lab): Does she think it right that 42,000 student nurses on low incomes have to pay the full rate of poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: Before long

most student nurses will be on Project 2000, paid a bursary and treated as ordinary students and therefore will pay only 20 per cent. In the meantime, there are some who are in receipt of a salary. They will be treated like all other trainees in receipt of a salary. If their salary is very low, they will be entitled to a grant.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak, C) said those who gained more did not recognize it as fair because it was not based on people's ability to pay.

Mrs Thatcher: Ability to pay is taken care of by most generous community charge rebates ever known.

Letters, page 11

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Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, receiving petitions against the poll tax from student nurses at the Commons yesterday

## Iraqi Ambassador will not be expelled, Hurd tells MPs

## NUCLEAR TRIGGERS

THE Government has decided against expelling the Iraqi Ambassador or breaking off diplomatic relations with Iraq, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, told

Responding to questions from Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, about yesterday's seizure of nuclear triggers bound for Iraq, he said that there was risk in breaking off diplomatic relations but no advantage.

Mr Hurd said that under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, nuclear suppliers undertook not to transfer nuclear devices or technology and the other parties undertook not to receive them.

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), established in 1987 by the summit seven countries (G7), was intended to prevent the spread of technology that could be used to develop nuclear-capable missiles.

In Geneva, the Government was consulting urgently other parties in the Western group of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in order to find ways of minimizing the risk of evasion of the treaty. Britain was in the forefront of seeking to expand the membership of the outer regional and would urge EC partners to join without delay.

The Soviet Union had similar controls which applied to missile technology and he hoped that it too would adhere to the MTCR guidelines.

Iraq was not the only power in the Middle East with nuclear ambitions and this episode underlined starkly the dangers to the whole world of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Mr Kaufman congratulated those involved on the brilliant success of their operation. "The whole world owes them a debt for we have seen the prevention of a crime which would have menaced world security."

Mr Hurd said that the Foreign Office last night described the seizure of the

detonators as only a criminal matter which had no bearing on Britain's relationship with Iraq?

Why then had the Foreign Office called in the Iraqi Ambassador? "Is it a matter of no concern to us that a regime such as that was risk in breaking off diplomatic relations but no advantage?"

Why was the decision made to deport an Iraqi citizen especially at a time when in Iraq two British citizens were being held in wrongful imprisonment? Why had this man not been held and charged? Why had he been set home to safety and no doubt, appeared?

Since this whole Iraqi operation had clearly been inspired at the highest level in Baghdad, had the Iraqi Embassy in London been involved? Why was the ambassador allowed to remain in London?

After the murder of Mr Farzad Bazoft, Labour had called for the expulsion of the Iraqi Ambassador. Was not this action more than ever appropriate now? Would the Government advise British citizens to leave Iraq in the interests of their own safety?

Would the Government place a ban on all technology exports to Iraq which could have any connection with nuclear or any other armaments? Would the Government reconsider its attitude to export credits?

Was not Iraq in breach of the Non-Proliferation Treaty of which it was an adherent? Would the Government use its powers under the treaty to go to Iraq to carry out an inspection there?

"The Government must take action on this matter with the utmost urgency because the maintenance of international stability and the threat to peace make this an issue of paramount importance."

Mr Hurd said that the Iraqi Ambassador

was called in so that the Government could explain its concern, the action being taken and the reasons for it.

The Home Secretary (Mr David Waddington) had decided to deport an Iraqi citizen because his presence was considered against the public interest.

"We have examined the question of the presence of the Iraqi Ambassador and of our diplomatic relations with Iraq. I can see considerable risk and damage by breaking off relations and not advantage."

"I do not want to get into a position where we not only leave our citizens, including our two prisoners, without protection but where we do not actually have an embassy in the Middle East between the Khyle Pass and the Mediterranean. We have two empty embassies in two important Middle Eastern countries. I do not want to add to that number unless it is in clear advantage in doing so."

Mr Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat spokesman on defence and disarmament, said that given the continuing unrest in the Middle East now was the time to launch a substantial new initiative.

Mr Michael Jephcott (Westminster and London, C) said that the most worrying aspect of the affair was that the security arrangements were so sloppy that people such as the Iraqi could get their hands on such equipment.

Mr Hurd said that the episode demonstrated that there had been vigorous co-operation which worked.

Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) asked what the episode told the Government about the advance of the Iraqis towards producing nuclear devices.

Mr Hurd said that the specifications of the confiscated material suggested that they were intended for use in the trigger mechanism of a nuclear warhead. However, it did not follow that all of the other necessary pieces were in place. No such deduction could be drawn.

## Study of letters ordered

The Prime Minister has ordered an inter-departmental scrutiny by the Government's Efficiency Unit into methods and costs of handling correspondence between MPs and ministers, and between government officials and the public.

Mrs Thatcher said in a written reply that there are nearly 250,000 replies a year from ministers to MPs, and several million at official level to letters from the public.

The unit will seek the views of MPs and others who receive replies, so as to identify good methods of operation and recommend them for operation by all departments.

Departmental performance would be monitored and a minister in each department would be given responsibility for overseeing progress. In appropriate cases, MPs would be encouraged to write in the first instance to Civil Service agencies, or to local offices directly concerned.

## Proposals for Hong Kong

The Government intends to publish its proposals for legislation on the provision of United Kingdom passports for certain Hong Kong citizens soon. Mrs Thatcher said in a written reply.

The Bill is down for second reading on April 19.

## Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Social Security Bill, conclusion of remaining stages.

Wednesday: Education (Student Loans) Bill, Lords amendments.

Thursday: Easter adjournment debates.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, committee, fourth day.

Tuesday: National Health Service and Community Care Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debate on inner cities.

Thursday: Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, second reading.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bill: Consumer Guarantees Bill, remaining stages.

## Correction

During Wednesday's debate on the House of Fraser Bill, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead should have been reported as saying that society was awash with money, not much as printed yesterday.

## Republic 'is safe for terrorists'

## N IRELAND

against the unionist community in Northern Ireland being enshrined within the legal interpretation of the Irish Republic's Extradition Act, 1965.

Mr Brooke said that the Irish Government had been left in no doubt about the Government's feelings on the judgement which had also given rise to astonished comment within the republic.

The implications for future extradition cases from the republic, especially those concerning the "political offences exception", were extremely serious.

Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C) asked if Mr Brooke had warned the Irish Government that if this sort of behaviour continued, it would provide a major argument for those who were against the Anglo-Irish agreement and wished to undermine the relationship between Britain and the republic.

Mr Brooke said that the Prime Minister had made clear at the time of the extradition judgements that they might give the impression that some terrorist would have a safe haven in the republic.

Mr Hayes said that any new evidence should be given to the police.

It was for the prosecuting authorities and the Home Secretary to decide what action to take. "We should not let our emotions run away with us, either. This is a matter of evidence before the courts and not of feeling."

Mr Christopher Mullin (Sunderland South, Lab) said that the Prime Minister's press secretary had briefed the press that no new developments had occurred in the past few days. The Home Secretary should make a statement.

Mrs Thatcher: No. A television programme alters nothing. We do not have trial by television and the day we do, the rule of law will leave this country for good.

He added: That amounts to a mandate for terrorist warfare

between Britain and the republic.

Mr Brooke said that the Irish Government had actually been acting on Britain's behalf in the Supreme Court case and had been "as anxious as we were to get a satisfactory solution".

Mrs Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that the overriding concern must be to ensure that offenders were brought to justice, not necessarily where they were brought to justice.

He added: That amounts to a

sustained these illnesses. Conservative MPs, who believed that nuclear weapons had maintained the peace, therefore had even more reason to be grateful to the service.

Tories with a genuine concern for those who had suffered, and for those who had lost husbands who had participated in the tests, should say "enough is enough" and accept the new clause.

Mrs Shepherd said that the amendment was based on the presumption that responsible for radiation from the trials was deaths of people involved in the tests. That presumption was not supported by expert advice that the Government had received.

# Pretoria gears up for ANC talks despite violence

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

THE South African Government, pressing ahead with plans for sweeping political reforms despite the increasing violence, yesterday named a nine-man ministerial team for preliminary talks with the ANC in Cape Town next week.

But Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of Constitutional Development, said the Government was also determined to employ all means at its disposal to quell the strife in black townships and tribal homelands which could sabotage the transition to a post-apartheid society.

Police yesterday reported that 32 people had been killed and 19 injured, including 10 policemen and a train driver, in township clashes during the preceding 24 hours.

President de Klerk, Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Viljoen are the senior members of the Cabinet team. General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, who was under attack recently over allegations that he may have authorized defence force hit squads, was not included.

Dr Viljoen said the sole purpose of the meeting with ANC leaders was to remove perceived obstacles to broader negotiations on a new constitution. The ANC has insisted that the state of emergency must be lifted and all political prisoners released.

Future negotiations should be as extensive and inclusive as possible, and be open to all political parties with proven substantial support, Dr Viljoen said. "The first stage is to gain maximum agreement, if not unanimity, as to who should be there and how it

should function. The days of unilateral solutions are over."

The Government had not finalized its constitutional proposals, but it would come to the negotiating table with definite ideas. Dr Viljoen said one model under consideration was a bicameral parliament, which would ensure the protection of minorities.

The first House would be elected on the basis of one person, one vote, regardless of race. The second would represent racial groups and geographical regions, and would have the power to block legislation on important issues affecting minorities.

The second chamber would also need to guarantee regular elections, safeguard the economic system and protect a Bill of Rights.

Dr Viljoen called on all parties to abandon violence, which he said undermined the negotiation process.

Before meeting the ANC, President de Klerk will confer next Thursday with the leaders of the three Houses of Parliament, and six autonomous homelands.

The separate conferences represent a two-pronged approach to negotiations, in which politicians working within government structures and those outside the parliamentary system are consulted. Mr de Klerk said that in the present system were assured a place at the negotiating table. "The discussions next Thursday acknowledge the position of these leaders in this process. Through their participation, they have made an important contribution."

The participants will include Chief Buthelezi, in his

## 'Possessed' mother was burnt alive

Papeete  
One of the 24 villagers from the Polynesian stool of Faauia, on trial here for murdering six people in a religious frenzy, told the court: "I threw my mother into the flames and I cried 'Be gone Satan'. It's true I was laughing as I did so."

Mr Tavita Tapi, whose mother and five other villagers accused of being possessed by the devil were put to death in September 1987, said: "I was fond of my mother but, when I threw her into the fire, I didn't think it was my mother... Now I realize it was my mother but I still think she was possessed."

The killings occurred after three itinerant women preachers visited the island to urge the inhabitants in fiery sermons to root out Satan from their midsts. (AFP)

## Lebanon talks on hostages

West Beirut — The brother of President Rafsanjani of Iran has secretly visited Lebanon in an effort to negotiate the release of 18 Western hostages, including three Britons, held by Muslim militants here, according to the Christian *ad-Diyar* newspaper. (A Correspondent writes.)

The newspaper, which has close links to Syria, said Mr Mahmoud Rafsanjani, who handles Middle East affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, met leaders of Hezbollah (the Party of God), the group which is believed to be holding the captives.

## Glasnost aids the gold rush

Moscow — Forty Soviet goldminers are to begin prospecting in Alaska next month in the first joint Soviet-American venture straddling the Bering Strait (Michael Binyon writes).

The miners were chosen because it will be much cheaper for the Bering Strait Trading Company to employ them than to take on qualified Americans.

## Hawke holds on for fourth term

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

THE re-election of Mr Bob Hawke's Labor Government in Australia was finally confirmed yesterday as Mr Andrew Peacock conceded defeat and promptly resigned his leadership of the opposition Liberal Party. Victory by as many as eight seats comes five days after polling.

The parties face some dramatic changes. After the closest election in 30 years, the Liberals immediately set about the task of finding a new leader to rebuild a badly fractured party entering its fourth consecutive term on the opposition benches.

Endured by Mr Peacock, Dr John Hewson, the shadow Treasurer, is seen as his most likely successor. Dr Hewson, the rather staid architect of Liberal economic policy, caused some surprise by later asking Mr Peacock to stand as his deputy. There will undoubtedly be real challenges to lead the party out of its acrimonious disarray.

Mr Hawke's historic fourth term in office is tainted by the same disenchantment which saw both main parties rebuffed at the polls. The electorate found their leaders and policies frustratingly similar and uninspired.

Disapproval was registered with a record vote for the emerging Democratic and independent movements.

The Labor victory, and indeed Mr Hawke's own seat of Wills, in Melbourne, was secured only after electorate preferences were redistributed under the system of proportional representation. At one stage, everything seemed to hang on an isolated Queensland constituency where voters were still cut off by early wet-season floods.

In the all-important lower House of Representatives, Labor can now expect 78 seats and the Liberal-National Coalition 69. One seat goes to an independent.

Like the Liberals, Labor is conducting a vigorous review of its policies and personnel

which nearly cost the party the election. Yesterday's victory was announced in a brief statement, without the customary press conference, at a sensitive time. Public rows have broken out between the Environment and Industry Ministers, and significant changes are expected in Mr Hawke's new Cabinet.

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# Death penalty bandwagon rolls in US

From Martin Fletcher  
Washington

NEXT Tuesday at the unearthly hour of 3.00am, Robert Alton Harris is to leave his cell in San Francisco's San Quentin Prison and walk a few hundred yards to his death.

Wearing jeans and a denim shirt, he will be strapped unseated into a chair inside a green-painted steel chamber preparatory to becoming the first person executed in California since 1967.

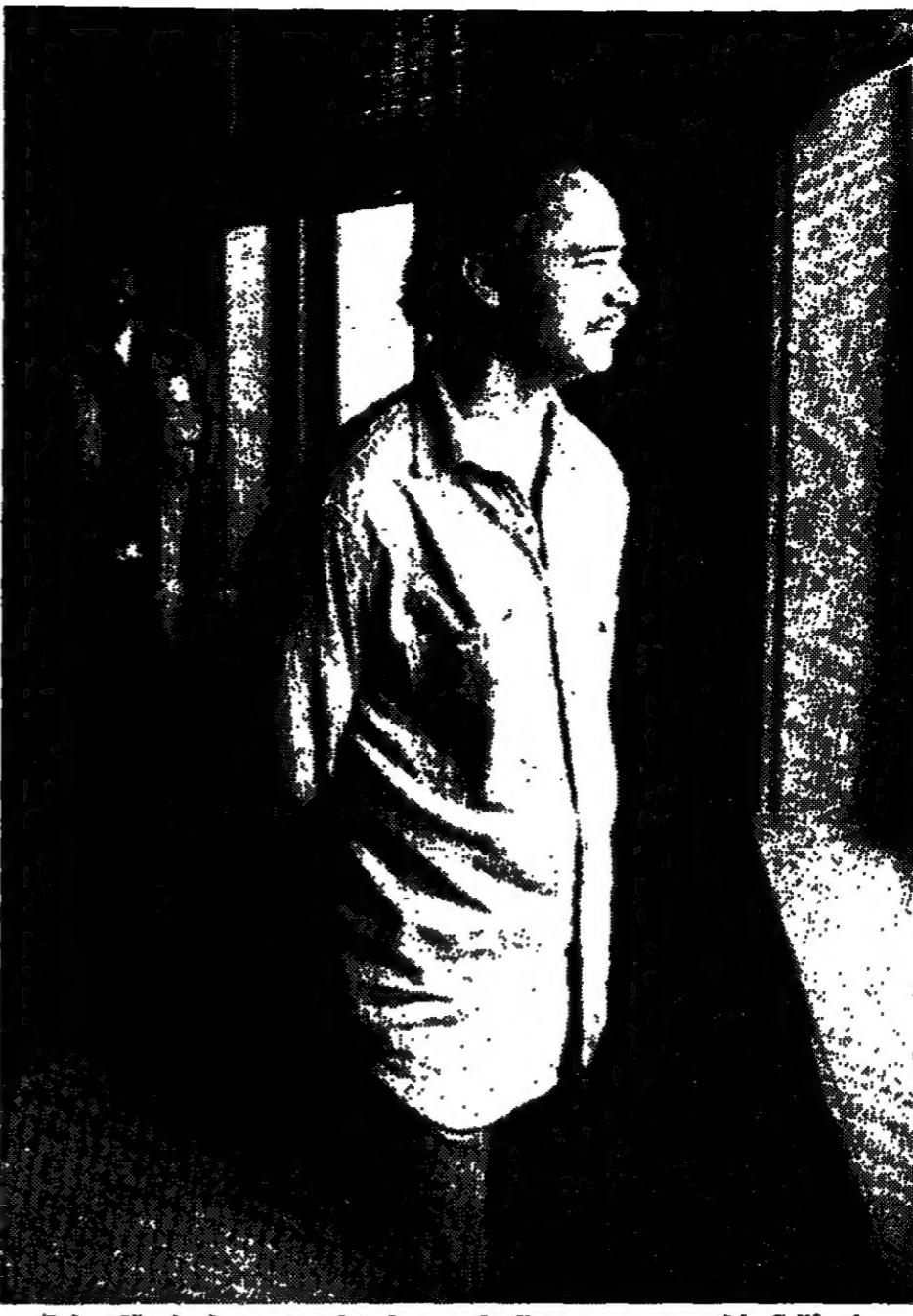
One of eight volunteer executioners from among the prison guards, adhering to a procedure rehearsed over the previous few days, will drop a pill into a bucket of sulphuric acid at Harris's feet.

Within seconds of inhaling the sodium cyanide gas thus generated, Harris will be unconscious. In 10 minutes he will be dead.

Fourteen journalists selected to witness the execution will then go directly to a press conference and tell what they saw to 125 other reporters chosen from more than 300 applicants. The conference will be broadcast live by almost every big American television network.

As politicians prepared to negotiate, thousands of black public sector workers demonstrated yesterday in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth against Government privatization policies. With the exception of the capital, where police dispersed a large crowd with tear gas, there was no serious incident.

• Pretoria's team: The other members of the Government's negotiating team are Mr Dawie de Villiers, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister, Mr Kose Coetsee, Justice Minister, Mr Barnd du Plessis, Finance Minister, Mr Adriaan Vlok, Law and Order Minister, Mr Stoffel van der Merwe, Education Minister, and Mr Roelf Meyer, Deputy Constitutional Development Minister.



Robert Harris, due next week to become the first person executed in California since 1967, gazing from the window of the building that houses the gas chamber

aside their personal reservations and are striving almost ghoulishly to prove the depth of their commitment to capital punishment.

Harris, however, is also a victim. No matter that elsewhere in the world, in countries as diverse as Romania, Haiti and Namibia, the trend is firmly away from the death penalty; ambitious American politicians, realizing its enormous popular appeal in a land paranoid about crime, have begun shamelessly to cast

democrats particularly guilty. They saw Mr George Bush, now the Republican President, destroy Mr Michael Dukakis, the Democrats' runner, in the last presidential campaign by accusing him of being a "soft-on-crime liberal". Now, by enthusiastically embracing capital punishment,

with advertisements boasting that he had personally attended 32 state executions. Mrs Ann Richards, the State Treasurer, said she supported the death penalty, but suffered the misfortune of being endorsed by newspaper endorsements by inmates of Texas's death row.

In the Florida campaign, Governor Bob Martinez, a Republican, is claiming credit for signing 90 death warrants and his advertisements focus

on the most prominent of those 90, Ted Bundy, the mass-killer who was executed last year.

Even Mr Andrew Young, a Democrat and former Mayor of Atlanta who is an advocate of non-violence, has dropped his opposition to capital punishment in his bid to become Georgia's first black Governor. "The state has to have the right to put mad dogs to death," he says.

The starkest example of the issue's potency, however, is back in California, where Mrs Dianne Feinstein, the former Mayor of San Francisco and now would-be Democrat candidate for Governor, has dramatically revived an almost moribund primary campaign with an advertising blitz based on her support for both the death penalty and abortion rights.

Her rival for the party nomination, Mr John Van de Kamp, the Attorney-General, has hit back with advertisements actually showing the gas chamber and boasting of how many prisoners he has sent to death row.

When Robert Harris first appealed for clemency, Governor George Deukmejian, the outgoing Republican incumbent, announced that he would conduct the hearing himself, thereby denying that role with all its attendant publicity to Mr Van de Kamp.

Deukmejian responded to a personal plea for clemency from Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, by saying that Californians, in referendums, had twice approved the death penalty and he had sworn to uphold the law.

In California there is now "almost a mob attitude... a frenzy being fed by politicians", says Mr Robert Bryan, chairman of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Experts believe, if Harris is executed there will be two far-reaching consequences.

First, the life expectancy of the 277 other prisoners on California's death row will be dramatically shortened and, second, it could inspire a glut of executions right across the US. There have been 121 since the Supreme Court pronounced the death penalty constitutional in 1976, far and away most of them in the four southern states of Texas, Florida, Louisiana and Georgia.

## One in 40 Thais face risk of Aids

By Thomson Prentice  
Science Correspondent

THE safety record of the sophisticated Airbus A320 passenger jet, operated extensively by British Airways and Air France, has again come under attack.

A report in *Science et Vie*, a French magazine, claims that the number of "technical incidents" recorded in the first full year of operation of the aircraft, which incorporates the world's most advanced computerized flight systems, was 12 times above an acceptable level.

According to the magazine, which headlined the story "The crisis of nerves of the A320", the model's two fatal crashes at Habersheim in eastern France in June 1988, when three died, and last month at Bangkok, where the toll was 90 — must bring its airworthiness into question.

Mr Peacock blames this latest election failure on his coalition partners in the right-wing National Party, whose poor showing raises the question of its survival.

Mr Charles Blunt, the relatively new National leader, still faces possible defeat by Miss Helen Caldicott, the independent Labor candidate, in the New South Wales constituency of Richmond.

After listing a series of potentially serious incidents since the aircraft came into service, including one that carried Mr Jacques Chirac, then the Prime Minister of France across Paris, it concludes that the worst implications concern "the reliability of data the crew receive from the various computer systems".

As reported last month, the Bangalore crash revived the fears of French airline pilots that the A320's technology could "trap" them into potentially disastrous errors.

Using extracts from official documents to bolster its case, *Science et Vie* focuses on "the most pressing problem", which is said to involve

## Jibril terrorists in disarray as the old ideology palls

From Christopher Walker, Damascus

THE Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-Geneva Command, the Damascus-based terrorist group that is widely held responsible for masterminding the Lockerbie bombing, is in severe organizational and financial difficulties, according to senior Western sources who have met disaffected members recently.

The internal disarray is reported to have undermined the organization's ability to launch any more sophisticated attacks, such as that in December 1988, which brought down a Pan Am jumbo jet, killing 270 people. It arose from growing discontent with Ahmed Jibril, the group's founder, a moustachioed former Syrian army officer now regarded by many younger Palestinians as outdated in his approach.

"One root of the trouble is ideological. Jibril is a dyed-in-the-wool Marxist-Leninist, who has shown no ability to respond to the recent winds of change from Eastern Europe," said one source. "Many of his followers now aspire to a Palestinian state which would have a multi-party system and a free-market economy rather than the centralized, Soviet model Jibril still dreams of."

Founded more than 20 years ago with its roots firmly in the extreme left-wing Syrian Baath Socialist Party, the group is believed to have between 800 and 1,000 members, mainly concentrated inside Syria and in training camps situated in Syrian-controlled parts of Lebanon, such as the Bekaa Valley.

Along with the PFLP-GC headquarters in Damascus have noticed that they show signs of a shortage of funds. Similar problems have hit a number of Palestinian groups since the decision of Mr Yassir Arafat, the leader of the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organization, to pursue a new path of moderation.

It is credited with having attacked a Swiss flight to Tel Aviv in 1972 and is linked with the explosion of a DC10 airliner in Nigeria in September 1989. The group also organized the spectacular hang-glider attack on northern Israel in 1988 which helped spark the Palestinian *intifada*.

The Western source said that the ideological differences had led to feuds at the two heavily guarded offices occupied by the group in Damascus and attempts to dislodge Jibril from the leadership. But Jibril's fortunes are at a low ebb at present, much worse than they have been for some time," the source said. "The combination of the changes inside the Palestinian movement, in Eastern Europe, and in the Kremlin's international approach have made him look very much like yesterday's man."

## Dust blown off Hemingway epitaph to love triangle

From James Bone  
New York

A PROFESSOR of English who deciphered a handwritten manuscript criss-crossed with revisions, in a Boston library claims to have found Ernest Hemingway's last short story.

Set in Paris, it is a semi-autobiographical tale about a writer who throws away his marriage for another relationship. The title is taken from the first five words of the 31-page text: "Philip Haines was a Writer". Professor Donald Jenkins, of the University of Massachusetts, unearthed the manuscript among papers given by Mary Hemingway, the writer's fourth wife, to the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. He said: "It's very exciting. I am positive that it's his last short story." The material dates from around

1959, two years before the Nobel prize-winning author killed himself with a shotgun in Idaho. But it refers back to the 1925-26 period when Hemingway was living in Paris as a young writer, and can be immortalized in *A Moveable Feast*.

At the time, Hemingway was leaving his first wife, Hadley, for the woman who was to become his second, Pauline. Pauline had left Paris for the United States to wait for Hemingway's divorce to come through and he found himself alone.

In the short story, the Hemingway character is Philip Haines. "Clearly, the thing is based on the triangle with Hadley and Pauline," said Professor Jenkins. But there is, of course, a twist. He found two manuscripts in the collection of thousands of Hemingway's personal papers that Mary donated to the Kennedy

Library in 1980. One, classified as document 6488, contains the beginning of a novel that Hemingway later abandoned. The second — 6484, but the later version — is the short story based on the same plot.

The two texts give an insight into Hemingway's creative process, Professor Jenkins said. Instead of writing the short story as preparation for the novel, Hemingway actually turned a failed novel into a successful short story.

The tension in the abandoned novel derived from the fact that the lover, called Dorothy Rogers (or Rodgers — it is split both ways in the text), the rough equivalent to Hemingway's second wife, refused to come back to Paris. Philip Haines, the writer, meets his former wife, Harriet, and even has sex with her. But in the short story, the sex is

dropped, and Philip confers with a lawyer about his divorce — and his lover, Dorothy, comes back.

The tale ends on a note of irony, with Philip meeting Dorothy on the docks at Le Havre, anticipating the beginning of a whole new relationship. But readers know that, because of a letter he fired off to her during her absence from Paris, the affair is doomed. In real life, Hemingway married Pauline and they went to live in Key West, Florida.

"The whole thing is written in a light, satirical, playful, tongue-in-cheek way," said the professor. "It's self-parody. If this were autobiographical, Hemingway would be playing very hard on himself." The story is in the April issue of *The Hemingway Review*, published by Ohio Northern University.

# Shooting claims by Army raise Lithuania stakes

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

THE Soviet Army has alleged a shooting attack on soldiers and military property in Lithuania for the third time in a week.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vaclavas Zabarauskas, the senior police officer who is Lithuania's Deputy Interior Minister, said yesterday that at 1.30 am on Wednesday the Soviet Army in the town of Varena, 50 miles south of Vilnius, reported that two shots had been fired at a white storehouse from a white car.

According to Colonel Zabarauskas, the next morning a second Soviet officer reported that four shots had been fired from a red car.

Colonel Zabarauskas said: "This is probably going to be *Vremya* tonight" — a reference to the main Soviet television news programme which has been a channel for attacks on the Lithuanian Government.

Tass has also been reporting attacks on Soviet troops in recent days. This has raised fears of faked attacks intended to justify military intervention. Mr Valerijonas Saderys, a parliamentary deputy, said: "This was the strategy they adopted when they annexed us in 1940."

The alleged incident in Varena follows the handing to the Lithuanian Government of a Soviet document signed by Colonel V. Uskhopchik, the commander of the Vilnius garrison. The document alleges two previous shootings on March 23, in which there were no casualties, several incidents in which rocks were thrown and an alleged attempt to break into a weapon store.

Other complaints in the document include the registration of volunteers for "an army of national defence". The document alleges: "Various types of weapons are being sold secretly in the city market places." It speaks of "machine

guns, sub-machine guns and rifles", and gives the price for a sub-machine gun as 1,500 roubles (£150). It says dissenters are being protected and foreign correspondents and traffic police are "observing barracks and the movement of the Army".

Colonel Uskhopchik's letter concludes: "I demand that you instruct the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic Ministry for Internal Affairs to answer for all these unlawful hooligan actions and not to permit anything similar in the future."

Despite the menacing tone, tension has fallen in Vilnius.

The alleged incidents are too small to provide a credible pretext for military action, and it would take time to create incidents on the necessary scale.

Most deputies feel that the allegations are simply further psychological pressure. No further big anti-independence demonstrations are known to be planned after the rather unsuccessful rally of Soviet loyalists outside parliament on Tuesday.

Tension has also fallen with the military confining its actions this week to two fields: the dispute about property between the two successor parties of the former Soviet Lithuanian Communist Party, and deserters.

If the Soviet intention is to press further along these lines, then the main printing house in Vilnius, owned by the Communist Party, will probably be taken over shortly.

The property dispute between the two Communist parties hinges on the argument from the Lithuanian party, led by Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, that since a majority of the party voted to split from the Soviet Communist Party, the independent party is now the legal owner of the properties. The much smaller Soviet

Communist Party in Lithuania maintains that the properties were in the name of the Soviet party as a whole and that natural justice demands they should have a share.

They have been careful not to try to seize control of all the Communist offices in Vilnius or the whole building of the Central Committee, occupying only those offices which were rendered useless by the loss of membership in the party and which the Lithuanian Communist Party had given, or had been proposing to give, to various academic institutions.

The Kremlin action in ensuring the Soviet party a share in these buildings could have meaning for long-term relations between Moscow and an independent or semi-independent Lithuania.

It suggests that whatever laws the Lithuanian parliament might pass restricting the rights of "foreign parties" to operate, Moscow will attempt to guarantee the Soviet Communist Party an extra-territorial status as representatives of the Russian population in Lithuania, and that it will also expect that this population will enjoy the same status in Lithuania as Soviet citizens under Soviet protection.

• COPENHAGEN: Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish Foreign Minister, welcomed a Lithuanian parliamentary delegation's proposal that Denmark should host talks between Lithuania and Moscow. Denmark is willing to host such a conference on condition that both parties agree," he told a press conference.

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## Rukh prepares to defy Ukraine Communists

From Bohdan Nahaylo, Munich

STRONG unofficial Ukrainian support for Lithuania's declaration of independence has led to a confrontation between Rukh, Ukraine's Baltic-style popular movement for restructuring, and the Communist Party authorities in Kiev.

Rukh is tomorrow to defy a ban on holding demonstrations throughout Ukraine in order to express solidarity with the Lithuanians. It has also secured backing for its position from dozens of newly elected Ukrainian Democratic People's Deputies.

At a time when the nationalist movement in Ukraine is beginning to come into its own, and new political parties are emerging, this direct challenge to the Communist Party of Ukraine is another serious blow to the party's crumbling credibility.

What is even more alarming for both Moscow and Kiev, however, is that the talk in this republic of 52 million people is now increasingly of independence.

The conflict over the Lithuanian issue began on March 20, when the Rukh leadership was refused permission to hold a mass meeting in Kiev in support of the Lithuanians.

The leaders of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union, the largest national democratic organization within Rukh, went ahead and issued a statement welcoming the renewal of Lithuanian independence. Other manifestations of solid-

arity with the Lithuanians followed.

The most impressive of these was last Sunday, when an estimated 30,000 people demonstrated in support of the Lithuanians in the western Ukrainian city of Lvov.

Also last weekend, Rukh discussed the Lithuanian issue at an important conference in Khust, which was attended by about 800 delegates. The meeting issued a statement expressing Rukh's full support for the Lithuanians and strongly condemning President Gorbachov's "violation of the sovereign rights of the Lithuanian people".

The expected confrontation tomorrow over Rukh's decision to defy the ban on demonstrations could not have come at a worst time for Mr Volodymyr Ivashko, the Ukrainian party leader, and his team, since the party's influence is already in sharp decline.

One of Rukh's biggest successes so far was to forge a Democratic Bloc for the elections earlier this month in Ukraine on the model of Sajudis in Lithuania.

Already, the Ukrainian Helsinki Union and the republic's ecological Green World Association have announced that they will shortly reconstitute themselves as political parties.

A Ukrainian Democratic Peasant's Party appears also to be crystallizing.

The author is a Ukrainian specialist at Radio Liberty.

At the Rukh conference last weekend, it was decided, however, not to transform Rukh itself into a political party but to keep it as an umbrella organization for all democratic parties and groups in Ukraine and the local Soviets.

Although the party authorities held up Rukh's legal recognition and were thereby able to block the registration of the Democratic Bloc candidates, the group did remarkably well in the about 55 per cent of constituencies where it and its allies were allowed to put up candidates.

The Democratic Bloc captured some 110, about a

quarter of the seats in the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. It won a landslide victory in the traditionally more nationally assertive western Ukraine, took 16 of the 22 seats in the Ukrainian capital, and even did well in such eastern cities as Kharkov and Sumy.

At least eight former political leaders were elected and Democratic Bloc candidates also did very well in the elections to the local councils.

Buoyed up by their impressive showing in the elections, several Rukh leaders have been calling for the creation of a new national democratic political party committed to achieving Ukrainian independence. Indeed, several of the leading figures Ivan Drach, Dmytro Pavlychko and Volodymyr Yavorivsky, all writers, have announced that they intend leaving the Communist Party.

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## Iraq's atomic ambitions

# Fake devices in US 'sting' helped to foil Saddam plot

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

BEHIND the foiling of Iraq's alleged attempt to obtain devices for triggering nuclear bombs was a long and complex "sting" operation conducted on both sides of the Atlantic, whose ultimate success was often in doubt.

Piecing together the information leaking out here, it is clear that the operation began in the autumn of 1988, when a California company, called CSI Technologies, from San Marcos, near San Diego, was approached by a British company, which cannot be named for legal reasons, that wanted to buy a significant quantity of krytrons, highly-sensitive electronic switching devices.

Some forms of krytron can be bought commercially in the US for around \$100 (£61) each and are used in such devices as strobe lights, laser power-supply systems and high-speed copying machines.

However, the order aroused CSI's suspicions because it required krytrons of a specification which could only have a military use. As such, their export to certain countries would be prohibited under American law.

CSI quietly informed the law enforcement authorities, and US Customs asked Mr Jerold Kowalski, its president, to comply with the order, offering a good price so that the British company did not go elsewhere. Last April, however, it apparently pulled out in the wake of press reports that Iraq was seeking to build nuclear warheads.

It turned out to be only a precautionary measure. By June, the company had approached CSI again. Last September, Mr Kowalski flew to London with Mr Daniel Supnick, an experienced undercover Customs agent, to meet the director of the company. Two Iraqis, who said that they represented Al Qaeda, an Iraqi government rocket-research organization, were also present.

According to one account here yesterday, the Iraqis agreed to pay \$10,500 for the krytrons, which they said were for aerospace purposes. The following day, the company contacted Mr Kowalski again to suggest that the krytrons be labelled components for computer-room air-conditioning units. The Iraqi Embassy in London is said to have authorized the payments with two telegrams.

This threw plans for shipping the krytrons to Iraq into confusion. According to *The New York Times*, the company wanted them sent straight to Baghdad, but CSI refused. US Customs tried in vain to lure the Iraqis to California to collect the krytrons. It was finally agreed that they would be sent via two telegrams.

"It appears to be the first open violation of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty by a non-nuclear weapons state."



## Hysteria over amnesty

Hong Kong  
Up to 100 people were injured in the Portuguese colony of Macau yesterday and more than 1,000 were arrested as hysterical crowds scrambled to register for a government amnesty offered to Chinese immigrants living illegally in the territory (Jonathan Braude writes). Police fired into the air to control a crowd of 50,000. Macau originally said only some 4,200 people would be granted amnesty.

## Son to testify

Los Angeles — Stewart Woodman, convicted of murdering his British-born parents for insurance money, has agreed to testify against his brother and two alleged hit-men and avoid a possible death sentence. (Reuters)

## Longer reach

Washington — Libya has successfully tested a system to refuel bombers in flight, improving their ability to reach Israel, according to Pentagon intelligence reports disclosed in *The New York Times*.

## MPs barred

Madrid — The Spanish Constitutional Court assured a working majority for the Socialists by ruling that pro-ETA coalition Herri Batasuna deputies may not take their seats in Parliament because they failed to abide by the wording of the oath of office.



President Saddam Hussein: Determined to make Iraq the Middle East's superpower but he is five to 10 years from having his own nuclear warheads

# Nuclear treaty's future is called into question

By Harriet Stansope

THE discovery of the Iraqi nuclear "triggers" plot has cast doubt on the effectiveness of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

And it has done so at an embarrassing time, with the treaty due for review in five months' time. Signatories must now consider whether it should be given more "teeth".

When it came into force 20 years ago this month, the treaty was hailed as one of the wonders of the age. More than 100 countries with no nuclear weapons signed away their future right to acquire them, while three of the five which had them (the two superpowers and Britain) promised not to help other governments to acquire them. France and China also had nuclear weapons at that time. They did not sign the treaty but agreed to abide by its terms.

Despite these apparent failings, however, the treaty has to all appearances worked. Although India tested a nuclear device in 1974, no country has openly joined the "Famous Five" by emerging as a fully fledged nuclear power. Moreover, at the last count, the number of signatories had grown to 141.

Israel and India are also generally considered "nuclear capable", although whether they have deliverable weapons is debatable.

The position of six other nations is ambiguous, according to Dr John Simpson, co-director of the programme at Southampton University for promoting non-proliferation. They are Argentina, Brazil, North Korea, Pakistan, Romania and South Africa. The latter has recently seemed to indicate that it may be about to sign the treaty.

It was also supposed that the nations with nuclear capability would give preferential treatment to treaty signatories in helping them to

## Baghdad 'lacking arms materials'

From Alan McGregor  
Geneva

There is no evidence that Iraq possesses enough plutonium or uranium for nuclear weapon production, according to Mr Jozef Goldblatt, senior research fellow at the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies and an authority on compliance with the 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty and other arms control measures.

He said yesterday that, while Iraq had some highly-enriched uranium, provided by France for the research reactor which was destroyed by Israeli bombing in 1981, this was under safe

from becoming full nuclear-warrior powers.

Nevertheless, the suspicion that Iraq is striving to achieve nuclear capability gives rise to particular concern in the wake of reports at the end of last year that it had tested a three-stage rocket capable of reaching several Middle East neighbours, including Iran. It is possible the devices designed for the US Minuteman, were intended to trigger the separate stages on a ballistic missile, as opposed to a warhead.

The non-proliferation treaty is thought to have worked in two main ways: it has established a climate in which nuclear weapons are held to be morally undesirable, and it has made it difficult, although not impossible, for countries to acquire them.

It was feared, a quarter of a century ago, that nuclear weapons were about to spread through the Third World; whether they will do so in future still remains uncertain. But the treaty has at least slowed matters down.

It has certainly worked well enough for the big powers in particular to want to keep it going in perpetuity.

In any event, it may be needed more in the next quarter of a century than in the last.

# KISS THE TURPS GOODBYE.

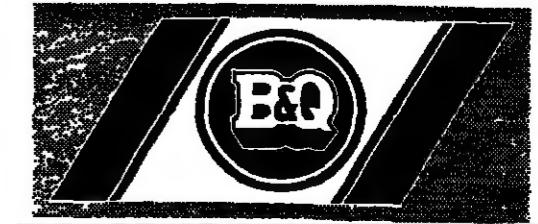


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# TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

The prospect of the Prime Minister being summoned to appear before a Commons select committee to answer questions from backbench MPs was blocked by Mrs Thatcher when the system was set up in 1979. It emerged at Westminster this week. The revelation came from a very frank Lord St John of Fawsley, who as Norman St John Stevans was the Leader of the House in Mrs Thatcher's first Cabinet. As such he was responsible for establishing the committee system which shadows government departments and is widely regarded as one of the most successful constitutional innovations of recent years.



Lord St John: revelations

To mark the committee's tenth anniversary, the Commons procedure committee is holding an inquiry into their operation, and this week it heard evidence from their founder. In a rare insight into the workings of a Thatcher Cabinet, Lord St John revealed the "sharp struggle" he had to have any commitment to select committees included in the first Queen's Speech. Mrs Thatcher did not care for them at all, he said, and tried to reduce them to no more than five or six, in order to get them through — which he achieved within six weeks of the election victory — Lord St John compromised. He continued to argue, successfully, for a much larger number, but he dropped the idea of a committee that could summon the prime minister. No doubt the compromise was worthwhile, to get the system established at all, but what treats we have been denied.

**D**iscussing the poll tax at one of their regular meetings last week, the bright and ambitious bunch of Tories who act as special advisers to Cabinet ministers were asked by John Whittingdale, Mrs Thatcher's special adviser, whether they still felt it was a good thing. Several of the newest recruits, eager to impress their battle-scarred colleagues with their commitment to the true faith, enthusiastically affirmed that they did. Those who practically fell off their chairs laughing, I am told, included the advisers to over half of the present Cabinet.

**A**n encampment similar to that at Greenham Common has sprung up outside the Palace of Westminster. The demonstration started with a lone poll-tax protester, complete with camp bed, on College Green, the tiny patch of grass opposite Parliament beloved of TV interviewers. By yesterday, the number of sleeping-bag protesters had grown to half a dozen. They spent much of the day posing for Japanese tourists. Tory MP Teresa Gorman has tabled questions about the matter, but it seems there is little the Westminster authorities can do. Permission for the protest was granted by the Department of the Environment — which is also responsible for implementation of the poll tax.

**O**fall the ways to break a leg, falling down a flight of stairs in one's rush to get into a television studio to give an interview about a local hospital closure takes some beating. Stand up — if it is not too painful — Jerry Hayes, Tory MP for



Hayes: promises a miracle

Harlow. He still managed to give the interview on one leg, and promises on next being called to speak in the House to throw away his crutches, shouting: "I can walk." The Tories could do with a miracle, he says.

**T**he advert to find a successor to Peter Mandelson as Labour's communications supremo is set to appear next month, and with Labour enjoying a record lead in the polls, party officials expect a bumper crop of applicants. But those who see the job as a stepping stone to Downing Street could be disappointed. If Labour wins the next election, the man most likely to play Bernard Ingham's prime ministerial Kinnock is Alastair Campbell, now political editor of the *Daily Mirror*. The paper already boasts one former prime ministerial press officer in Joe Haines, who did the job for Harold Wilson. Campbell played an important part in Labour's last election campaign as the off-screen interviewer in the famous Kinnock election broadcast made by Hugh Charnots of Fire Hudson.

**S**EE the spring in my step! Note the light in my eye! Clock the chuckle playing about my lips: what can he be bringing us this morning, you ask?

Good news to all who fear that the art of letter-writing is dead, is what.

It is a big all, else I should not bother to bring it. Indeed, such lines fortunate enough to have been left on the walls of middle-class dinner parties after the Filipo has been round with the Fit will readily testify that the talk is often of little else. You know, I'm sure, the scene quickly mopped up with the watercress soup have been the Heschine anabasis, the Gooch dichotomy; the unhealthiness dominance of mythological fiction and the tendency of the 3-series to overtake in the wet have got us through the marinated hake, and here we are.

**O**n Sunday new doctors' contracts come into force. The medical profession has protested vigorously, but such an increase of central control is by no means confined to Britain. Governments in all industrialized countries have seen their share of medical spending rise in recent years to at least two thirds of the total, and controlling medical expenditure has become an issue of great political importance.

Medical care can be funded in two ways: either it is financed through private or public insurance, or it is paid out of taxation. Each method has its difficulties. The problem with insurance is its inability to contain medical costs: with private schemes, premiums rise and low-income groups find it hard to pay them; with state-run health insurance, contributions must rise to match increased medical costs.

The underlying reason why insurance can cause cost explosions is simple. If doctors are paid a fee for service, and the costs of treatment are paid by medical insurance (public or private), doctors can prescribe whatever treatment they think beneficial, regardless of cost.

Both doctor and patient can behave as though medical care costs nothing. The need to contain medical costs requires that doctors are either controlled or given incentives to economize. The control solution is almost universal. Doctors in Canada are paid out of public health insurance funds for the treatment they give, but the price they can charge is controlled, and the quantity of treatment is monitored. Doctors there complain about the restrictions, yet Canada is one of the few countries that has kept medical costs under control.

American doctors work under

fewer controls, and, largely in consequence, the growth of medical spending in the United States has become an enormous problem. Medicare (for the elderly) and Medicaid (for the poor) are financed out of taxation. Until recently there was little scrutiny of doctors' charges,

nor of the amount of treatment they prescribed. As a result, spending on Medicare and Medicaid has risen to the point where it is the fourth largest item in the federal budget. In addition, partly because of the rising cost of private insurance, some 35 million Americans — about one in six of the population under 65 years old — have no financial protection against medical expenses, public or private.

The National Health Service attacks the cost problem in a different way. Medical care is financed through the tax system with a budget for each NHS District, and doctors, for the most part, are paid a salary rather than a fee-for-service. Both factors act as a brake on profligate expenditure. Largely as a result, the NHS gives quite exceptional value for money.

The facts are important. In 1987 (the latest year for which international data are available)

Britain spent 6 per cent of GDP on health care, the lowest figure of the OECD Big Seven. Yet we are as healthy as other countries. In terms of infant mortality and life expectancy, we do slightly less well than Sweden, and about as well as Germany; and better than the US, which spent 11.2 per cent of GDP on health care.

When compared with other countries the NHS is both cheap and effective. It manages better the inevitable conflict between doctors (who are interested in giving patients the best possible treatment) and governments (who are interested in containing costs); it is a strategy worth building on.

But even in the NHS major problems remain, which can be solved satisfactorily only by proper consultation between government and doctors. The list of approved drugs is an attempt to ensure that doctors prescribe the cheapest alter-

native. But what if doctors were to face the costs of the treatment they prescribe?

The NHS White Paper allows large group practices to manage their own budget for some types of treatment. This, it is argued, will encourage doctors to act efficiently, just as cost pressures encourage supermarkets and clothing firms to be efficient.

There is, however, an important difference: with food and clothing, quality levels can be monitored by consumers, and if they do not like it they can vote with their feet.

But medical care is technically

complex; often the patient does not have the information to allow judgements on quality, and the costs of mistaken choice are immeasurably higher than in the case of a badly chosen restaurant. Some form of quality control is therefore needed.

The NHS White Paper pays lip service to the importance of

medical audit, but nowhere states how it should be organized, with what powers, and by whom. Given the inevitable tension between cost and quality, medical audit, conducted by doctors along lines agreed between the medical profession and the government, will be absolutely critical if the incentives to economize are not to reduce quality.

It is necessary to have an agreed system which monitors what doctors do (as in Canada), or monitors how they do it (as will be necessary under the NHS reforms). It is a myth to imagine that doctors can be wholly free. The trick is to agree a framework which controls expenditure and monitors quality, but which leaves doctors with the discretion to do what they do best — treating patients.

There is no completely right answer, but any answer which is not the result of genuine consultation is unlikely to come even close. Government and British Medical Association please note.

Dr Barr is Senior Lecturer in Economics at the LSE, and co-author of *evidence on NHS reform to the House of Commons Social Services Committee*.

## Bad Thatcher aspects under Kohl ascendant

**T**oday's talks between Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl take place under a very different sign of the zodiac than the last. German unity was only a twinkle in Mr Gorbachov's eye a year ago, and one question of grand strategy brooded over their meetings like a bird of prey. Would Margaret Thatcher get her host's agreement to the deployment of a new generation of short-range nuclear missiles on West German soil?

It was an impossible task. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Bonn's principal power-broker, had threatened to bring down the coalition if the Chancellor gave way. It was a disconsolate couple who appeared before journalists in the village hall. Her expression was one of icy contempt; his of volcanic wrath. There was no agreement. At George Bush's suggestion, the question was shelved during the subsequent Nato summit.

German reunification and the changes in other parts of Eastern Europe have changed the security outlook, but the personalities have not changed, and the omens for today's meeting are not good. Earlier this month Mrs Thatcher sustained the temperature, revenging herself for her humiliation over nuclear modernization by forcing Herr Kohl to resolve his ambiguity of short-range nuclear missiles on West German soil?

It is worth asking why Anglo-German relations should be plumbing new depths just now. One of the major recent causes of friction — the presence in Germany of a third of the British Army and the RAF — should dwindle into insignificance as the Red Army withdraws and the Western allies scale down their forces in response. Grassroots pressure from his nation of environmentalists has in the past forced Herr Kohl to demand crippling restrictions on Nato training; the British have always been firmest among the allies in resisting him.

Second, the victory of the Christian Democrats in the East German elections means that a reunified Germany is much less likely to be neutralist than was feared until a month or two ago. Finally, the liberation of Central Europe has greatly strengthened Mrs Thatcher's hand vis-à-vis European federalists, including Mitterrand and Herr Kohl. The British lion would rather do business with the German eagle than with the hypothetical hydra of a federal Europe.

So why is there no détente between the Bonn chancellery and Downing Street, to match the recent blossoming of West German relations with the White House? It is fashionable to point to President Bush's unstinting support for German reunification as proof that the new German superpower has greater leverage in Washington than has Britain with its special relationship.

The personal incompatibility of the two leaders is certainly not the only problem; it has in any case been offset by two outstanding diplomats. One is the present Foreign Secretary, Douglas



**D**

Hurd, who makes discreet but effective trips to Bonn; the other is the British ambassador, Sir Christopher Mallaby, whose reputation there is second to none. To remove the remaining obstacles to harmonious relations will, however, be complex.

Mrs Thatcher is now going through a period of mid-term unpopularity similar to that which afflicted Herr Kohl a year ago. Just as he was then considered to be weak and vulnerable to pressure whether domestic or external, so she is no longer seen in Bonn as the *Eiserne Dame*, but as something approaching a lame duck. However superficial this analysis is, it undoubtedly affects Britain's standing.

The reversal of political roles

has been accompanied by a similar change in economic fortunes. Where West Germany was less dynamic than Britain in 1985-88, the fates have seen to it that the Germans are now enjoying a boom, while the British economy is in difficulty, however temporary. All this weakens British influence, while German prestige has never been higher.

If there is an element of *Schadenfreude* directed at the British in the unconcealed triumphalism of some members of the West German establishment, it cannot be denied that Germanophobia is still encountered among their British counterparts. Prejudice, though, did not prevent a rapid reversal of British policy: from a refusal to consider rapid reunification last November to the present readiness to accept all its consequences, within the two-plus

four framework. Despite Herr Kohl's Silesian own-goal, the British have not sought to interfere in the process of reunification.

Nor have latent suspicions of German nationalism yet brought about the noticeable shift towards a new *entente cordiale* with France that has been widely predicted. The French applauded (and were secretly piqued by) Mrs Thatcher's vigorous defence of Polish interests, which they had considered their domain. But President Mitterrand's determination to ensure that continental Europe continued to revolve on a Franco-German axis — ignoring the already perceptible gravitation of power to the new Germany — denies the military and political representation of the British. French faith in federalism may weaken, however, once a unified Germany with its capital in Berlin becomes conscious of its strength and of its economic and cultural mission in *Mitteleuropa*.

**U**nderlying West Germany's often fragile relations with its neighbours is an almost neurotic sensitivity to criticism, which derives largely from the conviction that others are exploiting the Nazi past to blackmail the wealthy Germans of today. However, the thin-skinned German is a phenomenon at least as old as the First World War. In 1917 the philosopher Max Scheler's brilliant but slightly dotty book *The Origins of Germanophobia* tried to prove

that the metaphysical root of the hostility was the fanatical German work ethic. German efficiency had forced the rest of the world to abandon its medieval paradise for the atheist purgatory of capitalism.

There can be no doubt that German over-sensitivity has sometimes had drastic consequences.

Walther Rathenau, the Weimar Republic's foreign minister, shocked the world in 1922 by concluding the Treaty of Rapallo with his fellow pariahs, the Russians. His friend Count Kessler recorded his exasperation in 1919 at the attitude of British and American visitors, who were "unanimous in their attitude of condescension that he should belong to a nation which they regard as being of something as in."

He noted that, all right," Alan Hirson of Hammerstein claims, persuasively, to have coined the word 20 years ago. In 1968 Mr Hirson was working in a City office, where the commissionaire whilst awaiting his day by tackling the (then) Evening News's children's crossword. Invariably stuck at the halfway stage, he would ask passing staff for help with one of the trickier clues.

Rushing past one day, Alan Hirson was stopped with the plea, "Excuse me, Mr Hirson: 'River of Egypt'; four letters — N-J-L-Z. What do you reckon that might be?"

Heir suggested that it might be the River Nolz, and hurried on. Later he told the story to some colleagues — fellow crossword addicts — and they gradually adopted "nolz" as meaning "an incorrect, though plausible, solution to a clue that makes the completion of the rest of the crossword impossible".

There is no other word in English that conveys the distinctively German infinities and temptations, born of bitter experience, which characterize Adenauer and which still distinguishes President Richard von Weizsäcker. None of this means that the British and the Germans are doomed to infuriate one another forever. But it will require a far deeper knowledge of the German mind on the parts of future British politicians, diplomats and journalists.

The work of reconciliation done over four decades by the Konigsberg Conference, at which both Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl spoke last night, is by no means over.

**T**he statues of Stalin are coming down all over Vilnius. In our lifetimes Lenin will be Saint Peter again, without stopping at Petrograd. Words last longer than bronze, as all those heroic statues of Stalin and Lenin rudely hoisted from their pedestals are happily demonstrating, just as the statues of an earlier tyrant, Sejanus, hoisted over by the rope demonstrated 19 centuries ago. To coin a word that sticks in the vocabulary is a kind of linguistic immortality.

There is no damned merit or justice about successful coinages or eponyms. The great Duke of Wellington, in his simplicity sublime, is remembered linguistically today only for wellies (very roughly modelled on his calf-hugging leather boots, worn under his trousers), of which he would certainly have said: "I never saw so many shocking bad boots in my life."

Gladstone, the GOM of morality in politics, has

left his name to a stiff piece of hand luggage consisting of two equal-sized hinged compartments. In the frivolous way of language, our own dear Prime Minister is as likely to leave her name as a verb meaning to beth somebody around the ears with a handbag as to bequeath it as something more dignified.

New words come in weird and wonderful ways. Take the brand new verb "to nolz", which is heard quite widely in London slang, and was used in BBC TV's *Only Fools and Horses*. It means to make a right mess of something as in, "I nolzed 7 across, and accordingly couldn't finish the top right-hand corner."

There is no other word in English that conveys the precise meaning. They began to use it as a verb, also as in, "I nolzed 7 across, and accordingly couldn't finish the top right-hand corner."

In its current slang meaning around fruity districts of London — "to make a general bish of things, seriously to horse things up" — the point of the word has been blunted. In its exact crossword use, it conveys a unique meaning. Nolz is not yet familiar enough to be used as a solution in *The Times* crossword, at least not without causing some grief to those who live outside London. But it is a pretty little

**W**hen Alan Sabourin left the Tower, he was presented with a pewter mug inscribed: "27 September 1956 — To the Sabourins of D Watch and original Grauncher, by the Grammers". No wonder he was shocked to see their private word re-emerging 30 years later half way across the Tasman Sea.

Graunch is a pretty word of air traffic controllers' slang, though passengers would do well not to think hard about its onomatopoeic qualities just before landing. But it has an older and even odder history than its manifestation at Heathrow Control Tower. To graunch has been around for well over a century in regional dialect, and in New Zealand, whether immigrants must have taken it. It is an onomatopoeic or echoic word, meaning (intransitively) to make a crunching or grinding sound, and (transitively) to cause something to make such a sound, and hence to damage (sc., a mechanism of some kind). Graunching and graunchy mean testing or difficult. Here is an example from *Leicestershire Words* published, alas, as long ago as 1881:

"Graunch, variant of crunch and scrunch, to crush or grind with a noise; to crash. I'm sure it freezes, for I heard the ice graunching under the wheels of the carriage."

Compare the old dialect word "to graunch", which means to gnash one's teeth (also echoic). Partridge says that a grauncher was motorcyclists' slang for an inept mechanic from the Twenties onwards. And there is evidence that graunch was RAF slang during the Battle of Britain to reproduce the noise a plane made when it crashed and slid. The RAF origin may explain its delightful new manifestation at Heathrow.

## Amusing little red letter day



**ALAN COREN**

name, there lived not long ago one of those old-fashioned gentlemen who are never without a lance upon a ruck; an old target, a lean horse and a greyhound".

The letter begins:

"Dear Mr Coren. Some of the most important winemaking families in Spain have entrusted me to write to you on their behalf."

Do we not see it all in that brilliantly economical *enrusted*? The cloaked cabal convened beneath the cellar's flickering flame-beams, the plangent pluck of flamenco from the bodega above, the long agonized debate in low hoarse voices, and, at last, Sr Segundo Sanz (for it is he) selected by secret ballot to commit to vellum the quill which will serve them all. A wise choice. Sr Sanz has style. More yet: when epistolary duty's to be done, Sr Sanz has *aficion*.

"They have asked me to ex-

plain why we are inviting you to purchase the beautiful wines we produce. Yet they are afraid that you may believe this is yet another sales letter inspired by the commercial pressures which now pervade our once gentle

## THE WATER'S LOVELY

Is there anyone left in the upper echelons of Government — the Prime Minister apart — who is not in favour of Britain's early entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism? New voices in favour of membership this year join the chorus almost daily. Mr Hurd and Mr Major continue to deliver to Downing Street the same advice (if more gently phrased) that was given by their predecessors, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Lawson. Britain's senior commissioner at the EC, Sir Leon Brittan, considers that each of the conditions set for entry by the Prime Minister at the Madrid EC summit have been met. The Governor of the Bank of England says that apart from the convergence of British and European interest rates, they are fulfilled. City and academic argument is concerned almost exclusively with fine calculations over what interest rate would be ideal.

There are technical debates over the precise calibration of entry and wider questions over the short and long-term effects on the British economy. There is a separate political dispute within Government over the "Madrid conditions": have they, or have they not, been met? Since the Prime Minister has repeatedly committed the Government to entry, the only remaining arguments for delay are tactical. Even those are being whittled down. So how might Messrs Hurd and Major duly unhook the Prime Minister from her distracting difficulty and return the ERM issue to the economists?

The mightiest as their text the Prime Minister's own-making message to the Conservative MEPs gathered at Downing Street in January, we are Europeans and we share the European ideal, are simply differences of tactics. It recognises Britain's tactical interest to fight its corner on the larger arguments over common currency and a central bank from within the EEC.

The contours which looked as if they might become early lines of Britain against the proposals of stages two and three of the Delors report on monetary union have not so far come

forward, apparently discouraged by our indecision over completing stage one. With the quickening pace of discussion on a European currency and reform of the Treaty of Rome, the penalties of unnecessary isolation become heavier all the time. Although no one suggests British participation before July (when Italian capital movement controls are lifted), the chances that these liberalizations in France and Italy will seriously affect the ERM's operation seem slim.

The two ministers could tactfully suggest that there is no longer any dividend to be obtained within the Conservative Party, nor any electoral dividend outside it, from further procrastination. With clouds like the poll tax and Hong Kong already hovering over the party conference in the autumn, are there not arguments for defusing a potential row over Europe? The Prime Minister has nothing to lose on the anti-European wing of the party and everything to gain from the larger pro-European end. She can make use of respectable anti-inflation arguments in favour of ERM entry.

Her party managers can take comfort from the possibility that, in the short term, entry will allow interest rates to come down, without generating inflationary pressure. Best of all, a declaration on rapid entry will remove Labour's principal claim — currently based on advocating early ERM entry — to be better prepared to reconquer inflation.

The Madrid conditions remain the pivot of the argument, however. Depending on one's definition of "convergence", they have either been met or are heading in that direction. Any further delay will suggest to Britain's EC partners that the commitment to enter when the time was right was a euphemism for indefinite postponement. A concession by the Prime Minister towards this limited step must be presented in such a way as to leave no doubt about the Government's opposition to stages two and three of the Delors report. Joining the ERM is a single step. The latter stages of Delors, let alone closer political union, are a quite different question.

## HAIL AND FAREWELL

The Inner London Education Authority will cease to exist at midnight tomorrow. Every enthusiast for London's history must shed a nostalgic tear. Last relic of the London County Council, it represented a noble tradition of public educational administration stretching back to the London School Board of 120 years ago. Like many institutions, it had grown bloated and wasteful. As with most, the day had perhaps come to call time and start with something fresh. Would that central government were able to show similar radicalism in its approach to its own bureaucratic structures.

The new London boroughs which assume control of London's one thousand schools on Monday can either show that small is beautiful, or prove that aggrandizement occurs whenever two or three Civil Servants are gathering together. They must shun the politics that still rack their business and look to classroom performance as the measure of achievement. Schools are judged by the competence of their children as they leave for the outside world. The most substantial argument for casting Ilea is that it had simply failed that test. Too many pupils left unable to read or write properly, badly served by teachers many of whom were more concerned with the demo than the classroom.

The boroughs have now been given a rare show of independence by Whitehall. Ilea died on the sword of political revenge wielded by Mr Norman Tebbit and Mr Michael Heseltine during the debates on the Education Reform Bill. They seemed scarcely to care that they were handing education in the capital over to many even more left-wing councils than Ilea. In boroughs such as Camden, Hackney, Lambeth and Southwark, teaching unions are likely to prove as intractable to sensible school

## WHEN PIGS HAVE WINGS

The idea of a full-scale war of the airwaves between Cuba and the United States adds to the gaiety of nations. The first salvos were fired this week when TV Marti, a television station founded with US Government backing to bring American news, views and baseball games to the Cuban people, began test broadcasts from Miami beamed direct into Cuba's Channel 13. Cuba promptly jammed the signal, and threatens to retaliate by beaming its own programmes into American homes.

There is something irresistibly comic in the thought of President Fidel Castro's interminable speeches blotting news, chat-shows and sit-coms from the radios of US citizens from Florida to Utah. President Castro, what is more, seems oddly alive to the severity of the pain his dislikes are capable of inflicting. Cuba's first warning shot took the form of a live, three-hour Castro harangue which swamped some of Florida's most popular rock stations.

The Cubans' sensitivity to what they have been quick to dub "a Bay of Pigs of the air" is understandable. Cuba's tightly censored media had little time for film of the downfall of Romania's President Ceausescu, let alone the jubilation of Nicaraguan voters. Most repressive governments are hyper-sensitive to the power of the visual image.

The trouble with the plan, which builds on the success of Radio Marti, its five-year-old sister station, is that while jamming radio is difficult and expensive, blocking TV transmissions has so far proved child's play: all the Cubans have to do is run a test pattern on the channel at a cost of \$100 a night. Technically, Cuba is even within its rights, since "unwarranted interference" on a domestic channel constitutes jamming under International Telecommunications Union regulations.

American technicians in Miami believe that they will eventually be able to circumvent Cuban jamming; but meantime, US broadcasters are taking President Castro's threats of retaliation seriously. To turn the tables by beaming TV signals to the US would cost Cuba

a fortune and would be technically feasible only for Florida. US radio, however, is more vulnerable, particularly as so much broadcasting is local radio, campus and city stations using medium wave at relatively low power. Cuba could, for a modest £250,000 a year, disrupt these broadcasts in up to 30 states of the Union.

Cuba is believed to have two powerful 500-kilowatt transmitters, which would be adequate for the job; if, as expected, Radio Moscow ceases most of its regional broadcasts from Cuba this month, that would free more long-range capacity. American enthusiasm for TV Marti's efforts to promote the free flow of information in Havana could be decidedly dampened by a sustained diet of Cuban propaganda at home.

The comedy underlines the isolation of the Western hemisphere's communist redoubt. It is significant that China has been loud in its applause of Cuban defiance: the good ship Goddess of Democracy, from which Chinese dissidents plan to broadcast uncensored news to China, arrives off the South China coast from France next month. China has been jamming Voice of America and some BBC World Service broadcasts since the Tiananmen Square massacre, putting it in a lonely club with Cuba and, intermittently, Iraq as the last of the committed jammers. (North Korea keeps news out by preventing its citizens from owning radios capable of reaching beyond the thoughts of President Kim Il Sung.)

Elsewhere, after nearly 70 years, jamming has finally gone out of fashion. In the Soviet Union, Pravda reported this month, the transmitters used for its 50-year-old round-the-clock jamming operations (which cost it, to block the BBC alone, an estimated £300 million a year) are being converted to build up local broadcasting services. Short term, President Castro can enjoy playing the joke; but technology, coupled with the curiosity of his information-starved citizens, will ultimately have the last laugh.

The Green Paper should be a welcome breath of fresh air for a probation service stuck in a 1960s

## Poll tax anomaly over lettings

From Mr John Trenchard

Sir, I am told by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea that they propose to charge the owners of second homes twice the community charge. This would be the case only if there were no other individual, for example a tenant, living in the property. If there were such a person he or she would be liable to payment at the standard rate.

If a landlord had purchased a second home for letting he would pay no community charge if it were let, but twice the charge for any year, or *pro rata* any part of a year, during which it was empty. If he owned a large building divided into self-contained units for letting, he would have to pay twice the community charge on each empty unit.

In a weak rental market this would ruin most landlords; the fear that such circumstance could occur would deter any potential landlord from acquiring residential property to let.

This would rapidly lead to the stagnation of the private residential lettings market, when one had assumed the Government's intention to encourage this market through the introduction of BEIS (business expansion scheme) as averted shorthand measures.

Apart from the evident injustice, one can but wonder at the inevitable administrative chaos

which would result from attempts to extract a community charge from tenants, many of them foreign, whose tenancies were for periods of months rather than years. In any given year increasingly complicated (and no doubt disputed) calculations would have to be undertaken to ascertain for what part of that year a landlord should be charged twice and for what part a tenant should be charged at the standard rate. An enormous amount of investigative work would be required to gather information, which would often be impossible to verify.

The effect of this double charge will be to make it impossible for many people to find rented accommodation in the neighbourhood, thereby causing irreparable harm to the community.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN TRENCARD (Partner),  
Chapman (Estate Agents, Valuers and Surveyors),  
77 Royal Hospital Road,  
Chelsea, SW3.

## School uniforms

From Mrs Marian Jeffery

Sir, Mrs Melita Treasure (March 26) lists some very valid advantages of school uniform, but omits

what I consider the most important point.

The dressed school uniform of my childhood made differing from classrooms or classrooms almost unheard of, since every item of clothing and sports gear was standard regulation uniform, and all items equally undesirable.

My daughters have all attended our local comprehensive school where, because of security difficulties, there are no facilities to store personal items normally, and they have to carry everything, coats, PE kit, domestic science gear and books from room to room during the day, and home again in the evening. The resulting luggage is sometimes almost too heavy for me to lift, and some of the smaller 11-year-olds must find life very difficult. I wonder what its effect is on their physical development.

Yours faithfully,

MARIAN JEFFERY,  
7 Raven Drive,  
Bentley, Essex.  
March 28.

## The Banzai affair

From The Editor of The Observer

Sir, To accuse someone of causing a man's death is a very serious matter. To do so in the case of

Fazlul Banzai, an innocent reporter and friend, is even worse. For Peregrine Worsthorne to repeat the charge (March 29) after admitting that the factual basis was false — and that I'd been misquoted — smacks of obsession.

He now says: "The Observer agreed that Mr Banzai should go to Iraq as their accredited representative. Without that accreditation, he would not have gone". Both these statements are false. The Observer gave him no accreditation; none was required. His invitation was personal and he was certainly going anyway.

Yours,  
DONALD TREL福德,  
The Observer,  
Chelsea Bridge House,  
Queenstown Road, SW3.  
March 29.

## Young offenders

From Mr M. Logan-Salton

Sir, The Chief Probation Officer, Middlesex Area (March 27), claims that a decline in the proportionate use of custody is enabling young offender institutions to be closed.

Such closures cannot be welcomed while large numbers of young offenders are being sent to adult prisons. The Home Office has announced that the former Medomsley Detention Centre, Co. Durham, is to be sold, but young people, from the age-group it served, are still sent regularly to Victorian conditions at Durham Prison.

If the reduction in crime and incarceration extends from juvenile to all young persons, chief probation officers may have made as limited a contribution as the bishops of the Church of England.

Even older teenagers are

welcome breath of fresh air for a

probation service stuck in a 1960s

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### All the world's a Globe and Rose

From Mr Sam Wanamaker

Sir, I am told by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea that they propose to charge the owners of second homes twice the community charge. This would be the case only if there were no other

individual, for example a tenant,

living in the property. If there were

such a person he or she would be

liable to payment at the standard

rate.

However, we have every reason

to believe that Hanson plc, the site

owners, English Heritage,

the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Museums of London and the Georgian Group will all co-operate to ensure that the unique and extraordinary Globe, of international significance, will be fully excavated, conserved, and put on display for future generations. We believe, with Mr Morley, that it is administratively efficient and sensible to embrace under one management several physically separated sites on one homogeneous theme.

If a landlord had purchased a

second home for letting he

would pay no community

charge if it were let, but twice

the charge for any year,

or *pro rata* any part of a year,

during which it was empty. If he

owned a large building divided

into self-contained units for letting,

he would have to pay twice

the community charge on each

empty unit.

In a weak rental market this

would ruin most landlords;

the fear

that such

circumstance

could occur

would deter any potential

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## THE ARTS

# Quality control and new ideas

Government proposals, devolving to the regions many of the responsibilities of the Arts Council, have led to the resignation of Luke Rittner as Secretary-General. The council's chairman, Peter Palumbo, suggests fresh roles for his organization

I have been Chairman of the Arts Council for one year, during which I have visited every part of the country. It was quickly plain to me that the regions knew their own business — that they knew the characteristics of their own people and place. The devolution which the Minister for the Arts, Richard Luce, proposes to the Regional Arts Boards is richly deserved. But it depends crucially on the factor of accountability. In the Minister's letter to me explaining his decisions, he writes: "The major shift of financial resources to the Regional Arts Boards makes the strengthening of the system of accountability even more imperative."

It is imperative that the Regional Boards' autonomy in grant-giving, and the standards they set in assessing potential clients and deploying available resources, stand up to scrutiny by the council. It is right that Regional Arts Boards should allocate their own funds. But the council will devise a unitary structure to be applied by each Regional Board when assessing applications for funds — all this within a national strategy for the arts, to be formulated by the council in close consultation with our regional partners and other interested parties.

Cynics have dismissed talk of national strategy as ministerial word-spinning to console the council for the loss of its grant-giving clout to the Regional Boards. Not so. The Arts Council remains the principal champion of the arts in negotiating central government funding, and also remains responsible for the great flagship national companies, and for others outside London, as well as touring and innovation.

We shall also be discussing many new projects. Here are some of them:

I think it essential to re-evaluate the definition of national companies, to include centres of excellence outside London. Companies with such national status, perhaps 20 in number, would be given protected funding for a minimum period of three years. Then they would be rigorously assessed to determine whether or not they should be invited to remain on the top table.

The stock of buildings that constitute the cultural fabric of the nation, including cathedrals, leave much to be desired in terms of their structural condition and essential artistic facilities. The council will quantify necessary repair and buildings projects, to construct a policy for the cultural fabric of the nation for completion



Peter Palumbo in front of the Henry Moore altar in the City of London church of St Stephen Walbrook

by the millennium. I hope that by the millennium, I hope that Government will agree to meet a substantial part of the cost of any such programme, thus ensuring a full partnership between the public and private sectors in the achievement of a common objective.

The Government has already taken the first tentative steps in this direction; I hope that the process will be accelerated. This would remove an enormous burden from those responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, leaving them to devote their attention to operating costs and to the establishment of endowment funds for future maintenance.

The Arts Council has not,

hitherto, admitted architecture as an art form. This seems nonsense to me. I hope to see an architecture department established as part of the Visual Arts Department of the council, leading to the establishment of an architectural award scheme and a series of competitions designed both to improve standards of excellence — in housing, say — and to enhance visual awareness.

A computerized Arts Register should be established. This would ensure that the council maintains a comprehensive database of information about the arts.

This year Glasgow is the European City of Culture. I propose that a similar designation should

be given annually between now and the millennium to a city or district which would become our national "City/District of Culture" for that year — and further identifying that city or district with a given art form. In Halifax, for example, as the new home of the Northern Ballet Theatre, it would clearly be dance.

Finally, the Arts Council will continue to develop its own TV channel; and the year 2000 should be designated "The Year of the Artist", as homage to, and a crucial acknowledgement of, the role that artists play in society.

English Heritage classic page 3

# 4 OSCAR WINNER

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## THE ARTS

John Russell Taylor reports on the great double exhibition which forms the centrepiece of Van Gogh's centenary year celebrations in the Netherlands

# Vincent complete

**I**s it possible that there is anything new to know or think about Vincent van Gogh? That question must have troubled the Dutch authorities at the centenary of his death approached. Clearly something impressive was needed to mark 1990 as Van Gogh Year. But what?

The last decade has seen virtually the whole of his brief, busy career covered in four comprehensive shows: the Arles period (New York, 1984), Saint-Rémy and Auvers (New York, 1986), Van Gogh in Brabant ('s-Hertogenbosch, 1987), and Van Gogh in Paris (Musée d'Orsay, 1988). At the same time, world-record prices for Van Gogh's in the auction houses have ensured that the painter is ever higher in the public consciousness.

There is an immense programme of linked events in the Netherlands throughout the year, including two Van Gogh operas, a festival of Van Gogh films, and innumerable shows, sometimes dragged in by prodigies of special pleading. The Frans Hals show, for instance, is alleged to fit into its imminent Haarlem setting because it concerns "the admiration Van Gogh felt for... Hals".

But at the centre of it all is the tremendously imposing two-part show which fills the newly refitted Van Gogh

Museum in Amsterdam and occupies most of the Kröller-Müller Museum in Otterlo until July 29. These are being given the full showbiz treatment, with advance bookings for particular hours on particular days, and a free shuttle-bus between the two.

Is it worth the trek? For anyone remotely interested in Van Gogh the answer is undoubtedly yes. The Otterlo section imposes itself largely by force of numbers. Devoted exclusively to Van Gogh's drawings and works on paper, and running to some 250 separate works, it is the largest ever.

The Amsterdam part impresses, rather, by its extreme and principled selectivity. The point that the organisers make is that we ignore at our peril what Van Gogh thought of his own work, and the distinctions he made between the finished, canonical works and the numerous sketches and studies. Van Gogh indicated these again and again in his letters to his brother and his dealings with the market. But they have been obscured by the recent tendency to lump everything together, as though it does not matter what the artist wanted to show.

As a reaction to this inclusive view, the Amsterdam show includes only those works which clearly had Van Gogh's own imprint. This is not, of course, the only permissible view: the artist may

not be the best critic of his own work, and the art historian can find endless interest in the false starts and discarded preparatory work. But it is illuminating, just for once, to see things as nearly as possible the way Van Gogh wanted us to see them. Moreover, this concentration on major, finished work has other advantages, clarifying the development by removing the undergrowth.

We know that Van Gogh's development, stylistic and spiritual, was phenomenal, in a career which really covered only 10 years. But here is the evidence: the extraordinary strides he took towards self-discovery, sometimes in a matter of days and even between the completion of a painting which pleased him and the beginning of a replica which, whether he intended it or not, carried him a few important stages further.

Because Van Gogh's work is so well known, at least in reproduction, there are not necessarily many works that are totally unfamiliar. But the placing of famous works within this strictly controlled context brings new vividness:

**T**he only slight disappointment here is probably unavoidable given the present frenzy for conservation: all the pictures except a handful (those from the Musée d'Orsay) are under glass. Some, admittedly, are under satisfactorily non-reflecting glass. But even the best glass keeps one, psychologically as well as physically, at arm's length from the pictures. With Van Gogh, the almost sculptural quality of the paint, the very physical abandon with which it is piled on to the canvas, plays an important part in our appreciation. The two pictures, a portrait and a landscape, from the John Hay Whitney Collection, bowl us over with their immediacy largely because glass does not intrude.

If the Amsterdam part of the show

may seem too extreme in its insistence



Early idea: "Young man crouching, with sickle", an 1881 drawing by Vincent van Gogh from the exhibition at Otterlo

on finish, and thus its implied downgrading of the preparatory work, the Otterlo part makes amends. More often than not the drawings and watercolours were intended as try-outs for subjects which were then going to be magisterially re-handled in oils.

It does not seem clear whether Van Gogh himself regarded any of them as self-sufficient works. Yet many of these impromptu drawings are deeply satisfying works of art in their own right, quite apart from the fascination which resides in being able to see the processes of creation — the way Van Gogh's mind

and hand worked in front of a subject. If you see both halves of the show in the same day, which is desirable, view the drawings first. Then you can carry over memories (assisted by a splendid two-volume catalogue, which illustrates everything) of the first thoughts, to compare with the definitive working in paint. But then, go back to Otterlo and look again at the drawings. Observe how brilliantly subjects which seem inseparable from the richness and complexity of colour and paint are resolved naturally and completely in pattern of dots and dashes, and squiggles of brown ink.

● Information may be obtained, and tickets may be booked, through the Netherlands Tourist Board (01-630 3451).

## • John Russell Taylor's recommendations of other current shows:

**IN FOCUS:** The National Gallery's recent acquisition, Caspar David Friedrich's "Winter Landscape", is revealingly put in its context of early German Romanticism. National Gallery (01-539 3321) continuing until May 20.

**LATE FROST:** Terry Frost, still as lively as ever in his seventies, looks increasingly like the best of the free-form abstractionists who gathered in St Ives in the 1950s. Small retrospective, 1948-1989, at Mayor Gallery (01-734 3556) until April 21.

**TUBULAR BELLY:** William Roberts, brilliant World War I artist, who is however best remembered for his later style, featuring robot-like figures out of some futurist Toy Town. Miscellany of smaller works at Gillian Jason (01-267 4835) until April 27.

**OIL AND VINEGAR:** Max Bebaert was always adept at delicate malice in his dithering, but deadly, cartoons of eminent idiots, of which a selection is on show here. Piccadilly Gallery (01-499 0431) until April 12.



John Martyn: sacrificing individuality in order to find success?

**EIGHT TO THE BAR:** Lively seven-piece cabaret showband from Connecticut who describe their music as "a colourful mixture of Forties live, Fifties melodrama and Sixties Motown". Their album, *Reheads of Rhythm*, is redolent of Harvey and the Wallbangers. *Maen Fiddler* 24-28 Hallfield High Street, London NW10 (01-957 5490) tonight, 8pm, £6.

**POWERHOUSE 1** Liverpool Road, London N1 (01-837 3218) Saturday, 7.30pm, £6.

**BRIDGE STREET ARTS CENTRE** Newcastle-under-Lyme (0782 415334) Sunday, 7.30pm, free until 8.30pm.

**KINGS X** Alert heavy rock three-piece from Houston, who attracted considerable attention when they toured here last year with Anthrax. Darlings of the specialist metal magazines, but still some way short of achieving wider acclaim. SFX 23 Upper Sherrard Street,

Dublin (0001 740560) tonight, 7.30pm, £7.50.

**Mayfair Newgate Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne** (091 232 5108) Sunday, 7.30pm, £6.50.

**Network Tollcross, Edinburgh** (031 225 7010) Monday, 9pm, £8.

**GREEN ON RED:** San Francisco's post-Stone, roots rock 'n' roll rebels par excellence. Led by vocalist Dan Stuart and guitarist Chuck Prophet, this is their first London date since the drafting of new personnel on keyboards, bass and drums.

Falcon 234 Royal College Street, London NW1 (01-485 3534) Saturday, 7.30pm, £23.

**ANGELIQUE KIDJO:** Singer from Benin, performing as part of the Africa Centre's "Focus on African Women" season.

Africa Centre King Street, London WC2 (01-836 1973) tonight and tomorrow, 9 pm, £7.

## WEEKEND GIGS

Compiled by David Sinclair, David Toop, and Rose Robbie

**KABA MANE:** A celebration of Nelson Mandela's freedom, played by the excellent singer/guitarist from Guinea-Bissau. Wednesday, Public Hall Market Street, London SE1 (01-317 8887) tomorrow, 7.30 pm, £4.

**GEOFFREY ORYEM:** Ugandan song-writer and multi-instrumentalist who escaped Idi Amin and now works in Paris.

Romantic Scott's Club Fith Street, London W1 (01-439 0740) Sunday, 8 pm, £5.

**ANNIE GRIFFIN:** This show pokes fun at the sexual stereotyping and sentimentality in traditional country and western songs, with a wicked sense of humour. Griffin plays

always reined in well before it threatens to upset the sophisticated calm of the overall ambience.

Martyn has been stuck on the fringes of British rock for a very long time and it would be churlish to complain about him taking a shot at the big league where so many of his old chums (Phil Collins, Eric Clapton, Robert Palmer et al) have taken up such comfortable residence. It is just a shame that, apart from a live recording of "Income Town" and one or two sprightly moments during the title track, it sounds as if he had to be sedated to do it.

Gary Moore *Still got the blues* (Virgin CD212)

There is no danger of Gary Moore turning into a mellow fellow. Indeed, this loving homage to the blues music which inspired him to pick up a guitar in the first place is marred primarily by the overpowering lack of restraint which has always characterized Moore's playing.

His massively cranked sound,

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## ROCK ALBUMS

David Sinclair

combined with the hyperactive zeal of his first technique, simply leaves no room for the nuances that are essential to the creation of a good blues mood.

When the veteran guitarist Albert King trades solos with Moore on "Oh Pretty Woman", the imbalance of power and technical muscle between King's light, faltering rubber-band sound and Moore's treble bananana shrisk is laughable.

All the swing is ironed out of Jimmy Rogers' "Walking by Myself" and the haunting motif of Otis Rush's "All Your Love" is transformed into a fair representation of a cat being passed through a mangia.

However, there is a certain charm when Moore pulls out his "Parisienne Walkways" synphonic sound on the title track, and he knocks off a respectable

imitation of Peter Green on Albert King's doleful lament "As The Years Go Passing By".

A "back to blues basics" album is a neat idea, but Moore ends up casting himself as the Alvin Lee of the Nineties — a supremely accomplished technician but lacking the vision fully to capitalize on his enviable prowess.

Andy White: *White* (Cooking Vinyl COOK 029)

ANDY White, the folk singer from Belfast, drifts gently in and out of focus on his third album. Although he turns his hand to some mild protest singing, he is not one of those Billy Bragg types feverishly involved at the cutting edge of radical dissent. As if to underline the point, the most overtly political song here, "The Guildford Four", has already been overtaken by events.

His stock-in-trade is more the personal tale of gentle romanticism ("Birds of Passage", "Six String Street") peppered with whimsical post-Lyric observations. "If words are the six strings of a guitar/And the guitar is the story of today/Well I must be the dictionary's tightrope/C'mon look me up in a groovy kind of way", he enjoys in "In a Groovy Kind of Way".

Backed by a full electric band, the *Class Mac*, this is White's most fully realized musical venture yet, and when the ensemble gets its teeth into the chunky Neil Young-like stride of "Just Jumped out of a Tree", the sparks fly.

**Boo-Yaa T.R.B.L.E.** *New Funky Nation* (4th & 5th way BRILP 544)

THE new rap "sensation" (until next week), Boo-Yaa T.R.B.L.E. are "Six Bad Brothers" of Simonian extraction from the Carson District of Los Angeles.

"Boo-Yaa" is onomatopoeic slang for the blast of a sawn-off shotgun, and in case you were in any doubt that these are Very Tough Guys, indeed, their lyrics revel in graphic details of the notorious LA gangland lifestyle.

There is the inside gun on a drive-by shooting ("Once Upon a Drive By"), all sorts of handy hints on gaining due respect, and a useful demonstration of how to say the m-f-word fifty times in one song ("Rated R").

If this unpleasant catalogue of miscreant tosh had been the work of a heavy metal band, condemnation would doubtless have been swift and universal. But posted on to a succession of drab minimalist Seventies funk grooves, membrooned by any fancy sampling or cutting tricks, the Boo-Yaa boys' puerile glorification of violence and sexism has naturally been greeted with immediate and widespread enthusiasm. Don't believe the hype.

## Not in black and white

### TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

LAST night's *40 Minutes* documentary (BBC 2) had some of the qualities of a good wide-screen thriller. A woman of 27, brought up by white foster-parents in a wealthy Oxfordshire home, decides to search for her real mother, and to discover the truth about her early childhood and why she was taken into care.

We were allowed to see both sides of the picture: the natural mother, ostracized by 1960s society for having a black baby out of wedlock, giving up her daughter; the child, now grown-up and working in the probation service, painfully aware of the problems surrounding black adoption 20 years ago. "I'm afraid she's a little bit more tinted," said one council officer to the foster parents.

How much of the behaviour of mother and daughter was conditioned by the cameras we shall never know; we do know that the rediscovery of a parent by a child is, for both, a traumatic experience, even (or perhaps especially) after a quarter of a century.

*Small Objects of Desire* (BBC 2), Kim Farrant's immensely quirky and engaging series, moved on from the answering machine and the condoms to consider the history of the hamburger. Woody Allen once said in a film that he could not face living in California because its only contribution to world culture had been the legal right turn on a red light. Similarly, I have doubts about living in a land where the most potent symbol of national identity is crushed beef served in circular bits of bread.

But 20 million hamburgers sold worldwide every week must be saying something. McDonald's now runs its own university, where 1,200 Londoners alone were last summer granted degrees in chip-frying. Senior postgraduates reckon 20 seconds to be the optimum time for getting the burger and the fries from oven to mouth.

In Japan, the president of McDonald's believes that if he eats enough hamburgers his skin will turn pure white and his hair blond. In Thailand, they had to invent a whole new ecological system to deal with the changeover from rice to beef.

The pursuit of happiness as decreed by the American constitution now means the freedom to consume hot beef sandwiches at speed: hamburgers are simple, unpretentious, rugged, elemental, egalitarian and anti-intellectual. They are, in short, America.

This Week (ITV) considered the new Health Service white paper. Its implications are significant at a time when one major London hospital, St Mary's, is facing a six-week closure this summer to ease a £2 million deficit, and another, St Thomas's, cannot afford its own stationery any more.

Tom Phillips RA original £20,000.



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From ancient Greece to Mrs Miniver, the rose has a complicated message, Sally Brompton says

# A rose by every name

**T**he search for the perfect English rose has fascinated artists, connoisseurs and horticulturalists for centuries. A symbol of purity and flawless beauty, it personifies all that is steadfastly unspoilt in a world of shifting values. Be it flower or female the perfect English rose is the visual personification of innocence.

Television director Mary Dickinson's own definition of this ultimate treasure is "pale in colour, rather simple and innocent and pure - whatever the age". It is an interpretation she applies to woman and bloom, both of which she studies in depth in tonight's *Arena* documentary, *The English Rose*.

After interrogating a cross-section of experts, both worldly and whimsical, about the spiritual, historical, horticultural, feminine, and mythical aspects of the rose, Ms Dickinson concludes that roses inspire great passion. In the words of leading rose breeder Jack Harkness: "To me a rose is another living organism with which I share life upon this planet."

"People have an interesting relationship with roses," Ms Dickinson says. "It's a bit of a love affair. You want to nurture them - and, indeed, they require it. They have to be pruned, fed and generally fiddled around with. You want to lavish attention on them."

The programme was inspired by a search for a climbing rose to grow round the front door of her house in Clapham, south-west London. "The rose is so indicative of England," she says. "The term 'English rose' is so much a part of our language and heritage that we all take it for granted. So I started to look into it and discovered that there was rather more going on."

The religious connotations of the rose have blossomed over the centuries. The word "rosary" is derived from the Latin for a rose garden, garland or wreath. And the Virgin Mary was known as the Rose of Heaven, causing English rose gardens to be known as Mary gardens. Saint Ambrose, the 4th century bishop of Milan, believed that man's sin gave the rose its thorns while Terullian, the early church father, envisaged Heaven as a place full of singing rose bushes.

"A rose is a visual paradox," says religious writer Frances Gumley, "a flower of great beauty, but on a stem of thorn. And that paradox is like a metaphor or allegory of life - almost like light and dark. It has petals of great softness, but symbols of suffering on the side."

"The smell of the rose is also connected with the odour of sanctity, the smell which some very holy people will leave. And there is the tradition of rose petals being strewn in processions during Corpus Christi. At the deepest level, it would be impossible



Playing the English rose in wartime: Greer Garson in the title role of *Mrs Miniver*

to divest the rose of its religious power because it is too beautiful and mysterious for that to happen."

It is significant that those in love with roses tend to refer to them as "she" even when they have such names as Cardinals, Hume, Cupid and Duke of Windsor. "I always call them 'she' because they are so beautiful," says Jenny Charlton, who, with her husband Don, is currently - and for the ninth time - British amateur champion rose-grower. Her own favourites are Gary Player - "a lovely pink and a frilly, blowzy sort of rose" - and the lilac-pink

and almond-scented Admiral Rodney, which grows paler in the sun.

"I know that many roses are named after famous men but to me the rose always looks like a female," says Mrs Charlton. "Many roses do have a complexion. The depth of the petals reminds me of the complexion of an English beauty."

It is hardly a coincidence that the image of the rose as female runs parallel to that of the rose as fresh-faced English beauty. Nor is the concept a recent one. "The first time it seems to have been referred to is during the 18th century, by

painters like Gainsborough and Reynolds, when they were comparing real English roses with the creamy-skinned, rosy-cheeked women they were painting," says make-up artist Barbara Daly.

A rose was one of the symbols of Eros, the Greek muse of love poetry. They seem to have been connected with love since the time of the ancient Greeks," says Ms Gumley. "The rose is also an emblem connected with Aphrodite."

Ms Dickinson acknowledges the sexual implications of the rose personified in Chaucer's satirical and sex-

ually explicit *Roman de la Rose*, which was based on a 13th century French verse in which the poet dreams that he falls in love with a rosebud; and also in the fairytale of Princess Rosebud in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

On Merseyside, the annual Southport English Rose beauty contest attracts hopeful English roses from all over the area. They turned up again last year to trip down the specially erected catwalk in the local floral hall to the strains of *I'm So Lovely* on the organ. There was Amanda from Chester, in her oyster shell volte silk ball gown; and Sharon from Bolton, in puff-sleeved white satin and lace trimmed with tiny red rosebuds.

Jane Asher, the actress and author who has a red rose named after her ("she's looking a little bit droopy but she keeps going a long time and is virtually disease free"), visualizes the perfect English rose as "blonde, pale-skinned, 18 or 19 years old, demure, wearing a frosty flowery dress, drifting through the fields, blowing the down off a dandelion, blushing as a gentleman crosses the fields towards her, with a hint of the purity not being totally steadfast; there's fire beneath the ice."

She also sees the flower as, "desperately romantic and, as with the girl, I think it promises eventual fulfilment".

**A**juxtaposition of woman and flower is a theme which permeates its way through poetry and literature. "O, my Love's like a red red rose/That's newly sprung in June," wrote Robert Burns. Geoffrey Chaucer, in his *Legend of Cleopatra*, described the Queen as "fair as is the rose in May".

Even Hollywood succumbed. In the wartime tearjerker based on *The Times* serial *Mrs Miniver* - which chronicled the day-to-day troubles of a fictional upper middle-class household - Greer Garson, in the title role, is invited to give her name to the most beautiful rose she has ever seen.

According to the gardening experts, English roses tend to be perfect because of the climate. "The perfect English rose is a rose grown in England," said a recent pundit on *Gardener's Question Time*. But one of his colleagues argued that the perfect English rose has yet to be grown and, it was to be hoped, never will be, "because if they find one, they'll stop breeding new ones."

The irony is that, of course, there is no such thing as the English rose. Britain's roses are crossed from strains imported by everyone from the Romans onwards. "I was rather pleased to find that it doesn't exist, because neither does that notion of perfection," Ms Dickinson says.

• The English Rose, *Arena*, BBC2 9.30pm.

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## Fabric of society

THE Greensleeves mail order range of clothing - just two designs, so far - may not be changing the face of traditional women's clothing manufacture, but it could point the way ahead for the fashion industry. Sheila Scholz's romantic styles are made of 100 per cent cotton, using non-toxic dyes - and both styles are also available in their natural, un-bleached and un-dyed state. For a catalogue - printed on recycled card - and fabric swatches, write to Greensleeves, 5 High Street, Windsor SL4 1LD (0753-850124).

### Grime green

If spring cleaning is on your mind, check out The Little Green Shop's cruelty-free range for blitzing household dirt. In addition to standard cleaning products such as washing-up liquid, disinfectant and furniture polish, the selection features all-natural, non-caustic, non-toxic weapons for the fight against grime: carpet cleaner, glass polish, oven cleaner, kettle de-scaler and barbecue cleaner, priced from £1.46 to £2.99. They can be found in independent health food stores, branches of Savory & Moore and Lifecycle. A mail order list is available from The Little Green Shop, 8 St George's Place, Brighton, BN1 4GB.

### Sweet idea

Long-debated by dentists, the lollipop may do more than merely harm children's teeth, it seems - unless you're prepared to fly in supplies from the United States where Glenn Foods, a New York-based natural sweet maker, has developed the first dioxin-free lollipop stick, which doesn't contain the potentially

carcinogenic by-product of the bleaching process. Appropriately, the stick comes attached to an all-natural, malt-syrup sweetened lolly.

### Joint venture

Can commerce and ecology mix? In any endeavour to create a sustainable future for the planet, business will play a crucial role. In "Business: The Leading Edge in the 1990s", a conference organized for next week (April 3-6) by the Dartington Hall Trust, an impressive list of eco-luminaries will address the commercial and ecological challenges of the upcoming decade. Speakers will include Jonathon Porritt, Anita Roddick, John Elkington - the author of the *Green Consumer Guide* - and Henry Camo, the US Ambassador. For further details of the residential conference - which costs £500 (including full board) - contact Brenda Blewitt at the Dartington Centre in Totnes, Devon (0803 862271).

### Seat yourself

Most hardwood lavatory seats are now deemed ecologically unsound, and countries like Thailand have clamped down on the export of endangered woods such as teak and mahogany. An alternative is beech - wood from redundant rubber trees, taken only from plantations which are being reforested. The seats are now available at branches of Debenhams in Oxford Street, Guildford, Gloucester, Southampton and Bristol, price £69.

Josephine Fairley

# Freedom's flip side

shall be gravely upset, but no more.

The flip side of this is that America and the West are free to act less morally than they might otherwise have done. Panama is one such example (for this reason - the message that such an action sent to Moscow - I worried about invading a country simply to remove a general we didn't like).

Is there anything wrong with this philosophy? I'm not sure. But if you consider that there are inside the Soviet Union a number of countries as real as Czechoslovakia or Hungary and certainly more real than East Germany, all of which want to be independent of both communism and the Soviet Union, then the Metternich approach is one that is essentially that of a robber baron - based on power and lacking morality.

What can we do about Lithuania? I don't for one minute think we should act aggressively. A trigger-happy West could force a change of time by Mr Gorbachov or even his downfall. Still, we can give diplomatic recognition to the independence of Lithuania. The Soviet Union itself has admitted that the Baltic states were incorporated into the USSR illegally; we have never accepted their annexation. By diplomatically recognizing Lithuania, we would at least not be complicit in the force now being used against it. Our stand should be the exact opposite, in fact, of the Vatican's stand against Hitler.

No one expected the Vatican to offer military resistance to Nazism but the world did not expect it to conclude a concordat with the Third Reich. The Vatican suffered a grievous moral blow because of this entirely unnecessary action and we can surely learn from that now. To stand silent as Lithuania asks for help is to corrupt ourselves, just as the Vatican did. It is not necessary to prove our point with weapons or economic boycotts, but nor is it necessary or conducive to peace to withhold disapproval from evil.

Meanwhile, I suppose it is always possible, as Mr Gorbachov is gambling, that at the moment is reverting, I think, to traditional Metternich policies. We have gone back to the age of the tsars and the Congress of Vienna. The great powers have divided up the world and each allows each to do as they wish in their own area. Since the advent of Tsar Mikhail Gorbachov we have taken the view that as he has been a pretty good boy, he can do pretty much what he wants; if he wishes to invade Romania and look after his oil fields in Baku, well, fine. If Lithuania is to be silenced, we

This changed, to some extent.

or many of the speakers at the dinner, I do not know what the new strategic policy of the West should be, or will be. It is my guess that it should be a non-belligerent but firm conviction that the values on which western political and economic systems are based are better than any which have so far been attempted - which is not to say that a better system might not one day come along. As a policy this may sound woolly, but a firm philosophy almost automatically translates into a firm policy.

Containment as a moral policy was probably abandoned in the early Sixties. Right up until the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe, one can see that the West had little sympathy for those suffering under communism.

The American conservative magazine, *National Review*,

did a computer search of the media and discovered that the phrase "victims of McCarthyism" appeared more frequently in the 1980s than it did in the 1950s.

Ms Dickinson says:

• The English Rose, *Arena*, BBC2 9.30pm.

In 12 days a telescope is due to be launched from Cape Canaveral, in Florida, which may enable man to see images of light from the creation. If the launch is successful, the Hubble space telescope will make possible the biggest single advance in cosmology since Galileo turned his lenses to the skies three centuries ago.

In *The Times* Saturday Re-

view tomorrow Peter Stothard explains the Hubble's potential to answer some of the fundamental questions about the beginning of time.

Also in the Review, Ray Connolly talks to Irina Rammikinskaya, the Russian dissident poet, about her childhood in the Black Sea city of Odessa, and discovers that there was something about her upbringing - "my parents always wanted me to be strong and withstand pain" - that enabled her to later withstand the fearsome tactics of the KGB.

THE TIMES

ON SATURDAY

IN COLOUR

view tomorrow Peter Stothard explains the Hubble's potential to answer some of the fundamental questions about the beginning of time.

In *The Times* Saturday Re-

Louis Outhier  
is on  
the menu at  
Ninety Park Lane  
for  
one week only.

Louis Outhier, the world renowned masterchef is at Ninety Park Lane from

Monday 2nd April, for one week only. If you would like to savour the creations of this culinary genius, please telephone 01-409-1290 to make a reservation, as advanced booking is recommended. A Trusthouse Forte Exclusive Hotel.



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## PREVIEW

## TODAY Classical Music

## MONDAY Art &amp; Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre &amp; Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz &amp; World Music • THURSDAY Opera, Dance &amp; Books

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

## ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

Max Harrison

**DAVIES'S BLIS:** Besides Stravinsky's aggressive *Symphony in Three Movements* and rarefied *Huxley Variations*, this latest concert in the series devoted to Peter Maxwell Davies's output includes his *Worries* (with pieces from *Arden must die* by Alexander Goehr). Oliver Knussen conducts the SBSO. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Tonight, 7.30-8.30pm, £3-£14.

**STANDARD ISSUE:** The ECO fields *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* and *The Water Music* by Handel. Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with Jack Brymer as soloist and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* (Lorraine McAslan, violin). Philip Ledger conducts and plays the harpsichord continuo. Berolcan Centre, St George Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Tonight, 7.45-9.30pm, £5-£15.

**NIGHT SONG:** In the Szymborska's songs Simon Rattle conducts John Metcalf (tenor), London Voices and the London Philharmonic in that composer's magnificent Symphony No 3, the "Song of the Night". It is preceded by Berlioz's *Sara la Baigneuse*, followed by Schubert's Symphony No 9. Festival Hall (as above). Tomorrow, 7.30-10.30pm, £3-£25.

**NEW FROM STRATHCLYDE:** Continuing the Peter Maxwell Davies series, the composer himself conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in the London premiere of his *Strathclyde Concerto* No 2 with William Conway as cello soloist. Queen Elizabeth Hall (as above). Tomorrow, 7.45pm, £3-£15.

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## CLASSICAL TOP 20

1 (1) Vivaldi: Four Seasons	Kennedy/ECO, EMI
2 (2) Mendelssohn/Bruck/Schubert	Kennedy/Tata/ECO, HMV
3 (3) Bernstein in Berlin: Beethoven	Bernstein, Deutsche Gr
4 (4) Elgar: Cello Concerto	Barilliotti/LSO/Baker/Du Pre, EMI
5 (5) Sibelius: Symphony No 5	Kennedy/Rattle/CBSO, HMV
6 (6) Elgar: Cello Concerto	Barenboim/PDO/J Pré, CBS
7 (7) Vivaldi: Four Seasons	Hopwood/AAPM, L'Orfeo Ly-
8 (8) Holst: The Planets	voca/Karajan/BPO, Deutsche Gr
9 (9) Lloyd Webber: Requiem	Domingo/Brightman/Mazel/ECHO, HMV
10 (10) Albinoni: Adagio	Karajan/BPO, Deutsche Gr
11 (11) Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake Highlights	Elmer/ROHO, RO
12 (12) Mahler: Resurrection	Kaplan/LSO, Imp/Philips
13 (13) Bizet: Carmen Highlights	Norman/Ozawa/OND, Philips
14 (14) West: Die Dreigroschenoper	Mauzer/RBS, Decca
15 (15) Puccini: La Bohème	von Karajan/BPO, Decca
16 (16) Tchaikovsky: Nutcracker Highlights	Elmer/ROHO, RO
17 (17) Beethoven: Symphony No 8	von Karajan/BPO, Deutsche Gr
18 (18) Elgar: Cello Concerto	Menuhin/RPO/Webber, Philips
19 (19) Bruckner: Symphony No 7	von Karajan/VPO, Deutsche Gr
20 (20) Puccini: Madam Butterfly	von Karajan/VPO, Decca

Source: Music Week Research

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ACROSS: 1 Kasbah, 4 Signor, 9 Thoreau, 10 Split, 11 Husk, 12 Inclined, 14 Parkinson's Law, 17 Sanskrit, 19 Scut, 21 Video, 22 Episode, 23 Novice, 24 Cores

DOWN: 1 Wagts (6), 2 Parrot (6), 3 Magpie (8), 4 Perception (13), 5 Irish lingo (4), 6 Ansteer (4), 7 In short supply (6), 8 Ketchup (6), 9 Lavatory (3), 10 N Alaskan native (6), 11 Paradoxical (6), 12 Sully (3), 13 Improper (6), 14 Noddy (20), 15 Milk Wood, 16 Look, 17 Starlight Express, 18 Blood Brothers, 19 Almyntor, 20 Michael Frayn's new play, 21 Look, 22 Conti, 23 Nowt, 24 Entertainments

## ENTERTAINMENTS

## OPERA &amp; BALLET

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** *Die Zauberflöte* (1986). 14 Mar. 7.30pm. 15 Mar. 10.30pm. 16 Mar. 12.30pm. 17 Mar. 2.30pm. 18 Mar. 7.30pm. The Power of the Phoenix. *Die Zauberflöte*.

**ROYAL WELLS:** 279, 2810. 14 Mar. 7.30pm. London City Ballet. *Three Times a Woman*. 15 Mar. 7.30pm. The Power of the Phoenix. *Die Zauberflöte*.

**THEATRES:** *Look, Look* directed by Nina Ockenden. *Look, Look* directed by Nina Ockenden. *Conti* by Tom Conti. *Nowt* by Noddy. *Entertainments* by Michael Frayn's new play.

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## America's English maestro

**T**wentieth-century English music is alive and well – and one of its chief guardians lives in America. Leonard Slatkin (pictured here) has restored the venerable Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra to international class. A prime candidate for either of the currently vacant conducting positions in London, he takes immense pains over training his orchestra, yet appears to have none of the vanities and tempers traditionally associated with the maestro". Moreover, he is probably the finest interpreter of great English music – Elgar and Vaughan Williams particularly – to have emerged in recent years. Many feel his recording of Elgar's *The*

*Chasse*", Marin's *Symphony No 5*, Rachmaninov's *Paganini Rhapsody* (Howard Shelley, piano) and Dvořák's *Symphonic Variations*.

**RAFFLE CONTRASTS:** The LPO, conducted by Simon Rattle in Messiaen's *El*

*exodus*, re-envisaged *memento mori* and the closing scene from Wagner's *Die Walküre* with Rita Hunter (soprano) and Willard White (bass-baritone).

Festival Hall (as above). Tues, 7.30pm, £4-£12.

**ROMAN BEETHOVEN:** The Roman violinist Silver Marcovici solo in Beethoven's Concerto Op 61 with the BBC Philharmonic under Edward Downes, who also offers Mendelssohn's *Faust* Overture and Dvořák's Symphony No 5.

Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool (051 709 3789). Wed, 7.30pm, £5.25-£10.50.

**UNKNOWN KNOWN:** Emile-Paulien Salminen conducts the BBC SO in the UK première of a *Symphony* by Jouni Kaipainen, followed with Bruckner's *Symphony No 7*.

Festival Hall (as above). Wed, 7.30pm, £3-£14.

**JANOS FURST:** The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Janos Furst in Schubert's *Death in Narnia* and *Allegro Appassionato*.

Wessex Hall, Poole Arts Centre, Kingdon Road, Poole (0202 685222). Wed, 7.30pm, £4.40-£10.25.

**VARIATIONS SYMPHONIES:** The Scottish National Orchestra under Bryden Thomson, with Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini* and Dvořák's *Symphony No 5*.

Cardiff Hall, City Square, Dundee (0382 202513). Wed, 7.30pm, £3.95-£11.70.

**ACADEMIC AND DOUBLE:** The RPO under Vernon Handley with Brähms's *Double Concerto*, Concerto for violin and cello, with Mark Kaplan and Colin Carr as soloists, and Rachmaninov's Symphony No 3.

Fairfield Hall, Park Lane, Croydon (01-862 9291/01-860 5885). Wed, 8pm, £4-£12.

**BIRMINGHAM ROLLS:** City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Peter Bayford with Haydn's Symphony No 103 ("The Drum Roll"), then Richard Stoltzman soloing in Nielsen's Clarinet Concerto and Debussy's *Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune* and Le Marteau sans Maître.

Walsall Town Hall, Croydon (01-862 9291/01-860 5885). Thurs, 7.45pm, £3.60-£12.50.

**STRAUHL STRATHCLYDE:** The Peter Maxwell Davies series. The composer himself conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in the London premiere of his *Strathclyde Concerto* No 2 with William Conway as cello soloist.

Queen Elizabeth Hall (as above). Tomorrow, 7.45pm, £3-£15.

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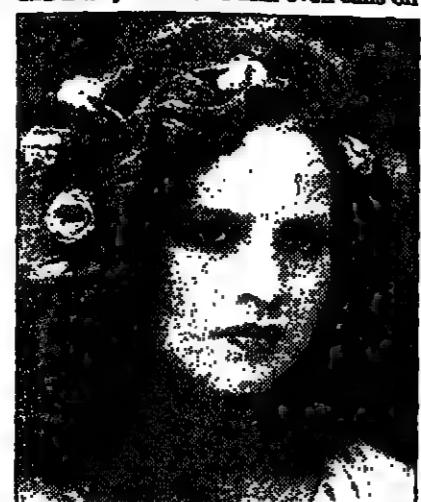
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## TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

## By any other name

Peter Waymark

**Arena's** celebration of The English Rose (BBC2, 9.30pm) begins a little stiffly, with the current head of the Harkness dynasty offering us a history lesson, but is soon into an entertaining and multi-faceted stride. The subject is treated literally and symbolically and sets up unfurled parallels between the flora and the flesh, a growers' contest in St Albans and a beauty competition in Southport. There is a bright cameo from Cyril Fletcher, diversions on rose water and pot-pourri and a tentative excursion into the antithesis of soft, fragrant bloom and thorny stem. The film even calls on

Blooming: a typical English rose as seen by *Arena*

evidence from radio, with the team from *Gardener's Question Time* (appropriately presented as voice-overs) getting, as usual, to the heart of the matter. In *Ace of Hearts* (Channel 4, 8.00pm) the *Allo 'Allo actor Hilary Minster introduces us to a world of bridge far removed from the staid image of elderly ladies and gruff colonels. It is essentially a profile of Zia Mahmood, a flamboyant Pakistani who came to the game at the late age of 23 but has quickly made up for lost time, becoming arguably the world's greatest player and definitely the first bridge superstar. He teams up to match with light meals and lots of press-ups and thinks nothing of winning (or losing) £25,000 a night. Disappointingly we are not shown any of the "controversial" behaviour with which Zia is said to have ruffled the bridge establishment.*

In *Survival Special: Giant Otter* (ITV, 9.00pm) follows the traditional wildlife format of summing photography and a plea for an endangered species. The latest rarity to attract the cameras is the charming and beautiful otter of South America, which can grow up to eight feet long. It is facing extinction because of the destruction of its rain forest habitat and the illegal trade in its fur, and fewer than a thousand are left in the world. Among its champions is Dianne McTurk, a descendant of Scottish settlers, who is trying to set up a haven on her land in Guyana.

Unusually for a television documentary *Living With Cancer* (BBC2, 8.00pm) has no axe to grind or case to make. Rather, it evokes the experience of the disease as related by patients and nurses at the Royal Marsden Hospital, the country's leading centre for cancer care. What comes across is the quiet courage of the sufferers and the dedication of those who treat them.

## RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 4.30pm, then at 7.30, 8.30 and 9.30pm. **News** 6.30am, 8.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2pm, 3pm, 5pm, 6pm, 8pm, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm, 12.30am. **Simon Mayo's 8.30 Simon Says** 12.30pm. **Newbeat** 12.45pm. **Mike Read** 3.30pm. **Steve Wright** 8.30pm. **News** 8.30, 8.45pm. **Singled Out**. 7.30pm. **Jeff Young** 10.30pm. **The Friday Rock Show** 12.30am. **The Many Whitewash Experience** 12.30-2.00am. **The Rankin' Mixes P**

## RADIO 2

FM Stereo and MW News on the hour except 8.00pm. **Headlines** 8.30am, 8.30pm, 7.30pm. **Music Alert** 8.30pm. **Chris Sturt** 7.30pm. **Derek Jameson** 8.30pm. **Ken Bruce** 11.00pm. **Jimmy Young** 11.00pm. **David Jacobs** 2.00am. **Gloria Hunniford** 3.30am. **Adrian Lowe** 8.00am. **Bob Holness** 7.00am. **A Song for Europe** 7.00am. **The Singers** 8.00am. **The Choral Ensemble** 8.00am. **The Choral Ensemble** 8.00am. **The Golden Years** 10.30am. **A Song for Europe** 11.00am. **Billy Butler** 11.00am. **Nightline** 3.00-4.00am. **A Little Night Music** 4.00am. **News** 6.00am except 6.45am. **Talksport**

## WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT, add an hour for BST. **5.00am News** 5.00am-2.30 hours. **News Summary** 5.30am. **London** **6.00am**. **6.00am News** 6.00am. **7.00am News** 7.00am. **7.30am News** 7.30am. **8.00am News** 8.00am. **9.00am News** 9.00am. **10.00am News** 10.00am. **11.00am News** 11.00am. **12.00pm News** 12.00pm. **1.00pm News** 1.00pm. **2.00pm News** 2.00pm. **3.00pm News** 3.00pm. **4.00pm News** 4.00pm. **5.00pm News** 5.00pm. **6.00pm News** 6.00pm. **7.00pm News** 7.00pm. **8.00pm News** 8.00pm. **9.00pm News** 9.00pm. **10.00pm News** 10.00pm. **11.00pm News** 11.00pm. **12.00am News** 12.00am. **1.00am News** 1.00am. **2.00am News** 2.00am. **3.00am News** 3.00am. **4.00am News** 4.00am. **5.00am News** 5.00am. **6.00am News** 6.00am. **7.00am News** 7.00am. **8.00am News** 8.00am. **9.00am News** 9.00am. **10.00am News** 10.00am. **11.00am News** 11.00am. **12.00pm News** 12.00pm. **1.00pm News** 1.00pm. **2.00pm News** 2.00pm. **3.00pm News** 3.00pm. **4.00pm News** 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# Kohl presses for faster progress to a united EC

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

**HERR** Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday stepped up the pressure on Britain to drop its objections to much faster progress towards political union within the European Community.

In a speech at Cambridge in the presence of Mrs Thatcher, he called for "constructive, intensive and swift efforts" to complete the economic and monetary union of the 12 EC countries. Mrs Thatcher strongly opposes the European Commission proposals for monetary union to be discussed at a special EC conference.

"Those who want a united Germany to be firmly integrated into European structures must logically support further progress in European unification," Chancellor Kohl said in what was seen as a sharp reference to Mrs Thatcher, the only European leader making serious efforts to persuade the Community to consider alternative approaches to monetary union.

Herr Kohl announced that at the Community's special summit in Dublin next month he will call for a further inter-governmental conference. That — quite apart from the monetary conference which Mrs Thatcher has only reluctantly agreed to attend — would be held "with a view to making faster progress towards political union", implicitly reviving the spectre of a United States of Europe which the Prime Minister regards as contrary to British interests.

A similar call was made in January by M Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission and principal author of the monetary union

proposals that Mrs Thatcher opposes.

Both Italy, which will hold the EC presidency in the second half of the year, and France have made clear that they would support either a second conference or a wider agenda for that already agreed.

Herr Kohl emphasized that a united Germany would be a "reliable member" of the EC. "The larger German market will, moreover, afford additional opportunities for all our European partners. I am certain that in five years the disastrous effects of socialism in practice will be overcome."

His remarks, at a dinner marking the 40th anniversary of the first Anglo-German Königsberg Conference, coincided with the publication of a Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee report on the working of the Single European Act. It said that crucial decisions on the future of the EC were imminent; implied that British objections to monetary union were being ignored or not taken seriously; and suggested that Britain was out of step with the rest of Europe in its perspective on the development of the Community.

The Government has said it will put forward alternatives to the Delors plan at the inter-governmental conference.

But the committee said: "Throughout our visits to European capitals we found interest in the British proposals, but they were not considered fully worked out enough to be seriously compared to the Delors plan."

Bad aspects, page 10  
Leading article, page 11

## Mandela joins township plea

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

**MR NELSON** Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi are to make a joint appeal for peace in the Natal townships, where more than 1,000 people have been killed in two years of fighting between their respective followers.

Mr Mandela, the vice-president of the African National Congress (ANC), and Dr Buthelezi, the president of the conservative Inkatha organization, will address a mass rally on Monday at Taylor's Hat, a township on the outskirts of Pietermaritzburg

which has been a flash-point of the intense strife.

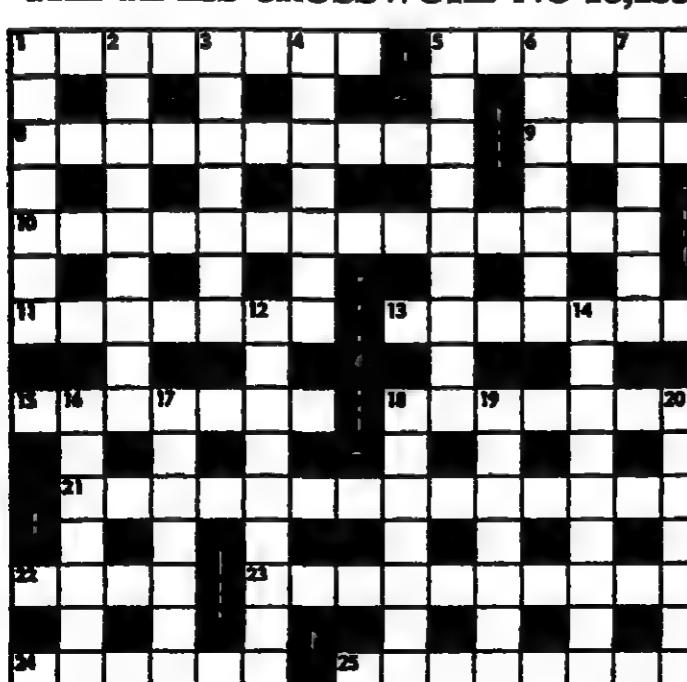
It will be the first meeting between the rival political leaders since Mr Mandela was imprisoned 30 years ago.

Dr Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of the KwaZulu tribal homeland, announced the peace initiative yesterday.

The bodies of five men and three women were discovered yesterday in Henley township, bringing to 21 the known death toll this week.

ANC talks, page 7

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,255



- 1 Adopted you in a manner of speaking (8).
- 5 A road to avoid (6).
- 8 Call teacher a showman (10).
- 9 Part of list read out (4).
- 10 Clandestine manoeuvres dragged on, slack! (3-6).
- 11 A playwright — Rattigan, perhaps? (7).
- 13 He throws out a ball that goes high (7).
- 15 Corporation — it obeys orders (7).
- 18 4's not about Jewish sectarians (7).
- 21 A hitch is a great disaster for an author (6,8).
- 22 Bound to show effectiveness (4).

Solutions to Puzzle No 18,254

HAUNT	FIRE ALARM
ARI	OPPER
WRITES DOWN	PETAL
BULKY	BALLYLUNN
SCALING	TOPSIDE
CROWN	LAIA
CHUMSYAL	DAHAWAE
HIM	AS
OLIVE	EXECUTION
CONTACTS	ALNE
STEN	ANGER

- 23 A crawler is completely analognous (2,3,5).
- 24 Test of French in viva-voce (6).
- 25 Bring about a conclusion, giving information about backing (6).
- 26 DOWN
- 1 A small loop put round the right fruit (7).
- 2 Many going in the right direction to find an open space (9).
- 3 Water supply initially kept in a gourd (7).
- 4 Intrusive nature could make sense to church (7).
- 5 Wild horse not fully awake (9).
- 6 Model beginning to pose with a garment on (7).
- 7 Blue flower left inside (7).
- 12 Sheriff's officer needed to apprehend a parrot (9).
- 14 Translated as "cursed", not "confounded" (9).
- 16 22 we hear, is a pupil (7).
- 17 Gangster in excerpt from film showing different sides (7).
- 18 Smart alec — he longs to expose people of rank (7).
- 19 Vessel with the French providing music (7).
- 20 Dr's left chemist for poet (7).

Crossword, page 18

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0886 401 followed by the appropriate code.

**London & SE traffic, roadworks**  
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731  
M-ways/roads: M4-M1 732  
M-ways/roads: M25-Dartford T. 733  
M-ways/roads: M25 734  
M-ways/roads: M25-M4 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736

**National traffic and roadworks**  
National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Anglia 741  
North-West England 742  
Northeast England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

The wrong answer grid to Puzzle No 18,253 was published in some editions yesterday. The correct grid is shown below.

**MISSOURI** DIANA  
DOOMED  
OVERZE  
HISTORY  
HILL  
GALON  
DUNGARREES  
MISS  
MISSPENT  
MARS  
AIDE  
GE  
NONE  
WATCHDOG  
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ME  
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A  
LITIGATOR

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Make sure with  
**WPA**  
Health Insurance  
70 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6LS.  
Tel: 0272 229771. Fax: 0272 221077.

Answers on page 18

## WEATHER

England and Wales will be dry and sunny after overnight frost and a chilly and misty start in many places. The north-western coasts and hills in Scotland will have light rain. Eastern Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dry with sunny intervals. It will be quite warm with light winds across much of the country. Outlook: Dry and sunny, but becoming cloudier in southern England and northern Scotland on Sunday.

## ABROAD

### EUROPE

### AMERICA

### ASIA

### AFRICA

### AUSTRALIA

### MIDDLE EAST

### SOULDIER

### AFRICA

### ASIA

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 30 1990

Executive Editor  
 David Brewerton  
 THE POUND

**US dollar**  
 1.6345 (+0.0070)  
**W German mark**  
 2.7726 (-0.0071)  
**Exchange index**  
 87.3 (-0.3)  
**STOCK MARKET**  
 FT 30 Share  
 1781.2 (-11.8)  
 FT-SE 100  
 2263.0 (-12.0)  
 USM (Datastream)  
 142.26 (+0.42)  
 Market report, page 29

## Redland builds to £250m

Redland, the concrete, roof tile, quarries and bricks group, increased pre-tax profits by 13 per cent to £250 million in the year to December.

Sales fell by 19 per cent, to £1.55 billion, because of the disposal of its fuel distribution business. Earnings per share increased by 17 per cent to 61.2p. A 2.5p rise in the final dividend to 15.85p leaves the total 18 per cent ahead at 23.35p.

Tempas, page 22

## Burmah up

Burmah Oil, against what it says was a challenging business background, turned in a net income of £95.5 million for the year ended December compared with a net income of £87.2 million previously. A final dividend of 13.5p makes 21.5p (19p) for the year.

Tempas, page 22

## STOCK MARKETS

New York:  
 Dow Jones 2728.36 (-15.31)  
 Tokyo:  
 Nikkei Average 31026.16 (-237.41)  
 Hong Kong:  
 Hang Seng 3000.52 (+9.82)  
 Amsterdam:  
 CBS Tendency 1165.55 (+4.25)  
 Sydney: AD 1547.0 (-10.5)  
 Frankfurt Day - 1953.68 (+22.28)  
 Berlin:  
 General 8149.20 (-10.9)  
 Paris: CAC 520.15 (+0.1)  
 Zurich: SKA Gen 560.15 (+6.5)  
 London:  
 FT - All-Share 1120.38 (-1.24)  
 FT - 500 1222.50 (-3.74)  
 FT - Gold Mines 853.50 (+4.42)  
 FT - Financials 853.50 (+4.42)  
 FT - Govt Secs 73.45 (+1.14)  
 Closing prices Page 28  
 Recent issues Page 23

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises:  
 Waterhouse 3275p (+9p)  
 Empire Stores 1052p (+1p)  
 Woolworths Rink 142p (+1p)  
 Rentokil 363p (+1p)  
 Chemring 440p (+10p)  
 British Aerospace 517.5p (+10p)  
 Burmah 598.5p (+9p)  
 Radiant Metal 145p (+12p)

Falls:  
 Conder Group 560p (-15p)  
 Davies & Newman 465p (-10p)  
 Frogmore 432p (-16p)  
 Clyngrove 342p (-16p)  
 David & Scott 260p (-10p)  
 Gibbs & Dandy 150p (-15p)  
 RMC Group 820p (-25p)  
 Borland 932.5p (-17p)  
 Facial Telecom 347.5p (-8p)  
 DAKS Simpson 'A' 437.5p (-10p)  
 Elys (Wimbledon) 965p (-10p)  
 Grandad 598p (-8p)  
 Clothing prices 28000  
 Bergman 435.2m

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%  
 3-month certificates: 15.1%-15.4%  
 3-month deposit: 14.1%-14.4%  
 US: Prime Rate: 17%  
 Federal Funds: 16%  
 3-month Treasury Bills: 7.62-7.81%  
 30-year bonds: 9.1%-9.9%  
 SEAC Volume

## CURRENCIES

London: New York:  
 £ 1.6345 \$ 1.5345  
 £ DM2.7726 \$ DM1.6975  
 £ SWF2.4510 \$ SWF1.4977  
 £ FFM3.6351 \$ FFM1.4573  
 £ HKD7.73 \$ 1.00  
 £ IJG 0.73 SDR £0.734987  
 £ ECU 1.35724 \$ 0.827882

## GOLD

London Fixing:  
 AM \$370.75 pm \$371.50  
 close \$371.50-\$372.00 (\$227.50-  
 228.00)  
 New York:  
 Close \$370.50-\$371.30

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) ... \$18.20/bbl (\$18.35)

(Opec's latest trading price)

## TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	Bank 2.27	Bank 2.12
Austria Kr	2.32	2.15
Belgium Fr	20.40	18.62
Canada \$	1.69	1.58
Denmark Kr	1.62	1.42
France Fr	8.74	8.14
Germany DM	2.90	2.72
Hong Kong \$	12.40	12.50
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.02
Italy Lira	271.00	261.00
Japan Yen	371	355
Malta Liri	3.245	3.065
Norway Kr	11.22	10.58
Portugal Esc	2.95	2.75
South Africa R	4.75	4.35
Spain Pes	184	172
Switzerland Fr	18.47	17.87
Turkey Lira	4295	3885
USA \$	1.715	1.615
Yugoslavia Dinar	refer	refer

Rates in £ sterling. Exchange rates quoted only as indicated by Barclays Bank. Rates may vary according to travellers' requests.  
 Retail Price Index: 130.2 (February)

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# Enron to build £700m gas power station

By Derek Harris  
 Industrial Editor

THE largest natural gas transmission company in America, Enron Corporation, has decided to go ahead with a £700 million gas power station on Teesside.

The combined cycle power station will be the largest power plant in Britain outside the two successors to the Central Electricity Generating Board, National Power and PowerGen.

Enron also claims it will be the world's largest gas-fuelled combined cycle plant with comparable costs and emissions. Eight turbines are expected to be supplied by Westinghouse of the US.

European producers believed to

have been in the running include Siemens of West Germany and the Anglo-French GEC Alsthom. Enron has a deal with ICI, Britain's biggest manufacturer, to take up about a fifth of the generating capacity of the power station and substantial steam heating for use in processing at ICI's Teesside chemicals complex. The power station is to be built on an ICI Wilton site.

Enron and ICI have signed letters of intent for gas supply from the Amoco-Gas Co group.

The ICI commitment has been enough to put the project on a firm commercial base, says Enron, which has also successfully finished its feasibility study for the project.

Enron is also at an advanced

stage of negotiation with four area electricity boards to take the balance of the station's output, which will be the equivalent of 3 per cent of Britain's total generating capacity as it passes into privatization.

Its gas consumption would represent more than 6 per cent of the total gas market.

The negotiations are said to be going "quite well".

Mr David Morris, chairman of Northern Electric, underlined how "competitively priced" power from the project would enhance the business.

"A new gas pipeline landfill on Teesside is extremely important for the economic development of the region. These Teesside growth prospects, which are good for us,

will also be good for all our customers," he added.

A pledge of involvement also came from Mr Bryan Townsend, chairman of Midlands Electricity.

"An essential part of the privatization programme is the introduction of competition into the generation business. An independent power project has to have long-term power purchase agreements at competitive prices to succeed. As distributors we plan to be involved as joint partners which will be good for our customers and our business."

Enron is also talking to South Wales Electricity and South Wales Electricity. After the area boards are floated this year, there will be

an offer of equity in the Teesside station open to them, if said.

Smaller, cheaper gas-fuelled stations rather than big coal-fired ones are seen as the likeliest route for an industry anxious to remain flexible as it passes into privatization.

Tomorrow is a testing day for the electricity supply industry, with its two generating bodies — created out of the outgoing CEGB — and its 12 area boards.

Many gas-fired stations being planned are only a third-to-half the size of the Teesside project. But Enron believes there are better economies from larger plant, both in capital spent and volume of gas bought.

With some in the industry

questioning whether so many gas-fired stations can make sense as electricity goes through its biggest organizational shake-up, Mr John Wing, Enron's chairman, was eager to demonstrate that his Texas company believed it had a winner.

Enron, he said, was looking at the possibility of building a similar power station of about the same capacity and using gas as the fuel in the North-west of England.

He said of the Teesside project — on which constructional work is due to start in the third quarter of this year with completion due half way through 1993 — that "we have a win, win project. It is good for the UK, both from an economic and environmental perspective."

## BT shake-up means 3,000 managers go

By Angela Mackay

BRITISH Telecom has announced a sweeping restructuring, leading to the departure of at least 3,000 managers, and the surprise resignation of Mr Graeme Odgers, the managing director.

Mr Ian Vallance, British Telecom's chairman, said the reorganization was the result of an internal strategic review, Operation Scoop, initiated in November last year. He said Mr Odgers' departure was by mutual agreement.

But BT sources said that Mr Odgers doubted the changes could be implemented by BT's self-imposed deadline of April 1991. The sources also suggested that Mr Odgers was concerned that now Mr Vallance has finished the review he would want a "hands-on" role in the day-to-day running of the company which would overlap with Mr Odgers' role.

The stock market greeted the announcement by marking-down BT shares by 4p to a closing price of 283½p.

Mr Vallance said the new structure would allow BT to provide a world-wide service to multinationals clients. He said the idea of vertical integration of the company was "crumbling" and that big companies wanted to deal with one supplier.

"If you can provide this service it is like picking fruit off trees," the chairman

said. Details of the restructuring will be released on May 9 and until then the company is reluctant to disclose either how much the restructuring will cost or how much it will save in the longer term.

However, Mr Vallance said the number of redundancies among the company's 25,000 middle management were "not insignificant" and industry analysts said it was likely that about 20 per cent of these staff would be shed.

BT intends the new structure to revolve around the customer rather than products and geography. There will be two main new customer-facing divisions, personal communications and business communications, responsible for marketing, selling, delivering and supporting a range of products and services.

The strategy has three main thrusts:

• Globalization — where national boundaries are broken down and BT operates in a world rather than a national marketplace.

• Streamlining — where the customer has access to the provider of the service.

• Segmentation — where BT meets different categories of clients' needs.

BT will have three divisions to service customers, business, personal, and special business, which will include operations such as mobile phones.

The company's international and British networks will be brought together into a new Worldwide Networks Division. The whole British sales and marketing force — including staff in the 28 districts — is being brought together under a unified management structure. The international sales force will be integrated over the next few months.

Mr Vallance said he had held talks with Labour Party shadow ministers about the party's intention to buy another 2.5 per cent of the company if they were voted into power. This would boost the Government's stake to 51 per cent. He said he would try to convince Labour that it would be best to sell the whole lot to realize several billion pounds rather than try for more control. The Telecommunications Users' Association welcomed the changes.

Comment, page 23

## Thames Television up for sale

By Melinda Wittstock

Thames Television, Britain's largest independent television contractor, has been put on the auction block by its two biggest shareholders, Thorn EMI and BET, who together control 56.5 per cent.

But the long-awaited disposal, either to a single buyer involved in the entertainment industry or to a number of investors, is unlikely to proceed until the Government's rules on ownership of ITV franchises become clear.

Any deal would require the approval of the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The IBA said it would wait until it received "a concrete proposal" from Thorn EMI and BET, which have hired Baring Brothers & Co, the merchant bank, to find prospective buyers. Both companies hold 28.25 per cent, and have agreed to act together on the sale.

Mr Michael Green's Carlton Communications, which tried to bid for Thames, whose chairman is Sir Ian Trethowan, back in 1985, is tipped as the most likely bidder, with CLT, the Luxembourg-based media company, also considered to be in the running.

Both Thorn and BET said they were waiting for guidance from the IBA before beginning formal talks.

Shares in Thames soared 32p to 508p on the news, which came as the company reported that advertising revenue for the first two months of 1990 was down by 4.8 per cent on the corresponding period last year.

Advertising revenue in the nine months to end-December was up 9.3 per cent on the corresponding period last year, compared with industry growth of just 4.7 per cent. Pre-tax profits reached £26.4 million in the nine-month period, against £21 million for the 12 months to end-March, 1989. The dividend is 12p for the nine-month period compared to 15p in the year to end-March.

## Money growth tops target at 6.4%

By Our Economics Staff

THE latest Bank of England figures on notes in circulation point to the narrow money measure, M0, growing at an annual 6.4 per cent in March — unchanged from February, but well above the Government's target of 5.5 per cent.

The data showed an adjusted rise of 2.3 per cent in the week to March 28 over the

same period last year, after a 2.5 per cent annual rise the previous week. The Bank said early Easter holidays last year were still depressing the data.

Mr John Sheppard, senior economist at Warburg Securities, said the money figures had to be "deeply disappointing" to the Government, especially after a prolonged period of 15 per cent base

rates. "This is the second year running that the monetary target has been missed and it is clear that M0 is not particularly responsive to interest rates."

The Budget Red Book, which set a target for the coming financial year of 1.5 per cent, predicted it would be "some months" before M0 fell within the range.

## Littlewoods chairman resigns

By Stephen Leather

THE chairman of the Littlewoods Organisation, Mr John Clement, has resigned.

Mr Leonard van Geest has been appointed the non-executive chairman of Littlewoods — Britain's biggest privately-owned company — and will act as a "caretaker" until a permanent successor has been appointed.

Mr van Geest has been a director of Littlewoods since February, 1988, and he is chairman of Geest Plc.

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# Redland pegs hopes on Germany

FEW top British companies stand to benefit as greatly from the changes in Eastern Europe as Redland.

As West Germany's largest manufacturer of roof tiles, Redland expects to be a leading beneficiary of the DM8 billion (£2.85 billion) worth of re-housing assistance which the federal government is bracing itself to spend in each of the next three years.

That said, 1989 was not a particularly buoyant year for Redland as the downturn in housebuilding led to a 16 per cent fall in the volume of brick sales in Britain.

Overall, profits growth slowed from 18 per cent to 10 per cent between the first and second six months and more than half the £29 million rise in the pre-tax total to £250 million was due to currency movements, a pensions holiday, and the gain on the repurchase of the bulk of a Eurosterling bond issued at the outset of the year.

With no end to high interest rates in sight, trading stands to deteriorate further this year in Britain, which still accounts for 40 per cent of Redland's profits. Redland points out that half this comes from its aggregate business, which is protected by the Government's roads programme.

Few analysts expect growth of more than a couple of per cent to profits of £255 million and earnings per share of 62½p in 1990. At 56½p, up 40p since their inclusion in The

*Times' Perestroika Portfolio* in November, that would leave the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 9. But whatever Redland's problems, it is far better placed than most others in the sector and perceptions about the industry's prospects may begin to change as the next election approaches.

## Guardian Royal

IF ONLY everything in the City was as predictable as Guardian Royal Exchange.

When Mr Peter Dugdale, the outgoing chief executive, announced the year's dividend of 11.5p, up 15 per cent, no one rashed for the phones, as 19 of the 21 broker's analysts at the meeting had already forecast it.

The pre-tax profits of £143 million, down 38 per cent, were similarly expected. A poor underwriting result all round was exacerbated by 10 commercial property fire claims in the second half worth £24 million.

The other main damage came from the Irish subsidiary, where a large number of motor claims and generous judicial awards pushed it to a pre-tax loss of £46.2 million, compared with a £1 million profit in 1988.

Overall, underwriting losses spiralled to £170 million, from £16.4 million in 1988, although this was in part com-



Better placed than most: Gerald Corbett, the financial director of Redland

pensated by a 29 per cent gain in investment income to £291 million.

Guardian Royal Exchange was noticeably successful in attracting new business during the year, with non-life pre-

have reported so far, and its underwriting loss was the lowest.

The confidence extended to the dividend increase, which left the group with a £1.3 million bottom line deficit.

Guardian Royal Exchange also looks as if it was strongly reinsured against this winter's storms, and will only have to pay out one-third of the £100 million its policyholders have claimed. As long as the year produces no more nasty surprises, it should be capable of making £160 million.

Profits in composite insurance come and go, while smart investors keep their eye on dividend growth.

On a prospective payout of 12.75p, Guardian Royal Exchange has a yield of 7.5 per cent, second only in the sector to Royal Insurance. A reliable hold.

## Burmah Oil

Burmah Oil advertises only a 6 per cent rise in net earnings for its 1989 year, which is hardly the rate of growth to set the market on fire. However, if the £8.4 million of property profits that flattered the 1988 results are stripped out, Burmah can boast an 18 per cent jump.

The market yesterday chose to look at the fundamental advance, and marked the shares 9p higher at 599p.

Castrol continues to oil Burmah's wheels of fortune,

and the 1989 net outcome of £95.5 million against £87.2 million (at the pre-tax level, a result of £155 million against £146.2 million) generally pleased.

The dividend rises by 13 per cent with a final of 13.5p (12p), payable on July 12 and making 21.5p (19p).

The balance sheet has benefited from a property revaluation that lifts shareholders' funds by £175 million to £285.9 million, gearing ended the year at 25 per cent, and interest cover eased from 12 to nine times.

Burmah continues to look over the shoulder of Premier Consolidated Oilsfields, in which it has a 29.8 per cent interest, and says it could well sell. Meanwhile, SHV, of The Netherlands, continues to look over the shoulder of Burmah, in which it has an intriguing 9.14 per cent. SHV whispers in Burmah's ear that it is a stable and supportive shareholder, and indicates that there is little to fear.

Burmah could find specialty chemicals operations — which managed a trading profit rise from £15.7 million to £17.1 million — a more difficult market in 1990. However, Castrol continues to gain market share in its various fields, and, overall, further profits growth should be assured. A net income in 1990 of £102 million looks possible, to put the shares, at 599p, up 9p, on a rating of 10.7. Hold.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### TV-am shares rise on advertising boost

SHARES in TV-am rose 13p to 183p after the ITV breakfast television contractor boasted record advertising revenue for the fifth year running, up 24 per cent to £21 million. Pre-tax profits for the year to end-January jumped by 19 per cent to £24 million, while earnings per share increased by 18 per cent to 23.1p. The dividend for the year was up 54 per cent to 10p. Mr Ian Irvine, the chairman, said he was certain a breakfast franchise would be included in the Broadcasting Bill, and with 75 per cent of the market, he was confident TV-am would win the franchise. TV-am confirmed it would take a small stake in Mr Jerry Packer's Television Corporation of America, worth Aus\$10 million (£4.6 million) if a planned bid for Channel 9, owned by Bond Media, went ahead. Mr Bruce Gyngell, TV-am's Australian managing director, has ruled out a move back to Channel 9.

### Relyon profit falls to £3.8m

PRE-TAX profits at Relyon, the mattress, furniture and security equipment maker, fell last year to £3.8 million, from £4.4 million. Earnings per share fell from 20.83p to 15.19p. The dividend remains 4.15p, making a total of 6.25p, unchanged. The directors propose a three-for-one scrip issue to existing shareholders.

### £8.8m Forfaiting loss

Shares of London Forfaiting, the specialist international trade finance house, rose strongly yesterday despite news of an £8.8 million loss for last year compared with profits of £20 million in the previous trading period. The rise, of 11p to 80p, was sparked by much lower second-half losses and the board's decision to hold the dividend at the previous year's level of 7.25p a share, after a final payment of 4.625p.

The main activity, forfaiting (discounting trade debts and trading them) has been hit by rising interest rates and by political uncertainty in Eastern Europe. LF cut its exposure to forfaiting from £387 million of assets at end-1988 to £191 million by the end of last year and moved into cash, boosting liquid assets from £75 million to £320 million.

### Ferrari offer for Pericom

THE Ferrari Holdings computer maintenance group has made a £4 million recommended offer for Pericom. The terms are 53 convertible preference for every 100 Pericom shares, with a 53p-a-share cash alternative. Ferrari's pre-tax profits were £1.4 million in the 15 months to end-1989.

### Aeroflot to buy in US

AEROFLOT, the Soviet Union airline, is to buy American-built General Electric engines worth more than \$150 million to power its 10 European Airbus A310s. The General Electric CF6-80C2 will be the first Western manufactured aircraft engine in Aeroflot's fleet of more than 3,000 aircraft.

Delivery of five A310s is scheduled to begin in late 1991 and Aeroflot then plans to use them to improve the standard of its service on international routes between Western Europe and South-east Asia via Moscow.

### 'We'll cover you' Sir Jack assured Guinness backer

By A Correspondent

AN AUSTRIAN bank was recruited by Sir Jack Lyons, the millionaire financier, to invest in Guinness during its bid for Distillers, promising that it could not lose, Southwark Crown Court heard.

The bank's London representative was told by Sir Jack "we will cover you" at a lunch where the investment was first discussed.

Dr Horst Tiefenthaler of the Zentralsparkasse und Kommerzial Bank Wien told the court he understood Sir Jack meant "that we would not incur a loss."

Dr Tiefenthaler said he first met Sir Jack socially. Later, they discussed the Austrian nationalised industries and the possibility of Bain and Co, the management consultants to whom Sir Jack was linked, becoming involved.

Despite knowing of the Guinness bid for Distillers, he did not discuss the takeover until a lunch three days before it was made unconditional, at which he was asked whether ZKB would be interested in buying Guinness shares.

Mr John Chadwick QC, prosecuting, asked: "Was anything said in connection with the proposal about the possibility of shares going down?"

The banker replied: "Yes, it was mentioned. Very casually, Sir Jack said that in any event we would not lose on the transaction. It's very difficult, reading the newspapers now the word 'indemnity' is in everyone's mouth. He did not say that word, he said casually 'we will cover you.'

"I certainly understood we would not lose."

A After gaining approval from his board in Vienna, the bank purchased about £2 million of stock, about 550,000 shares, through Mr Anthony

The trial continues today.

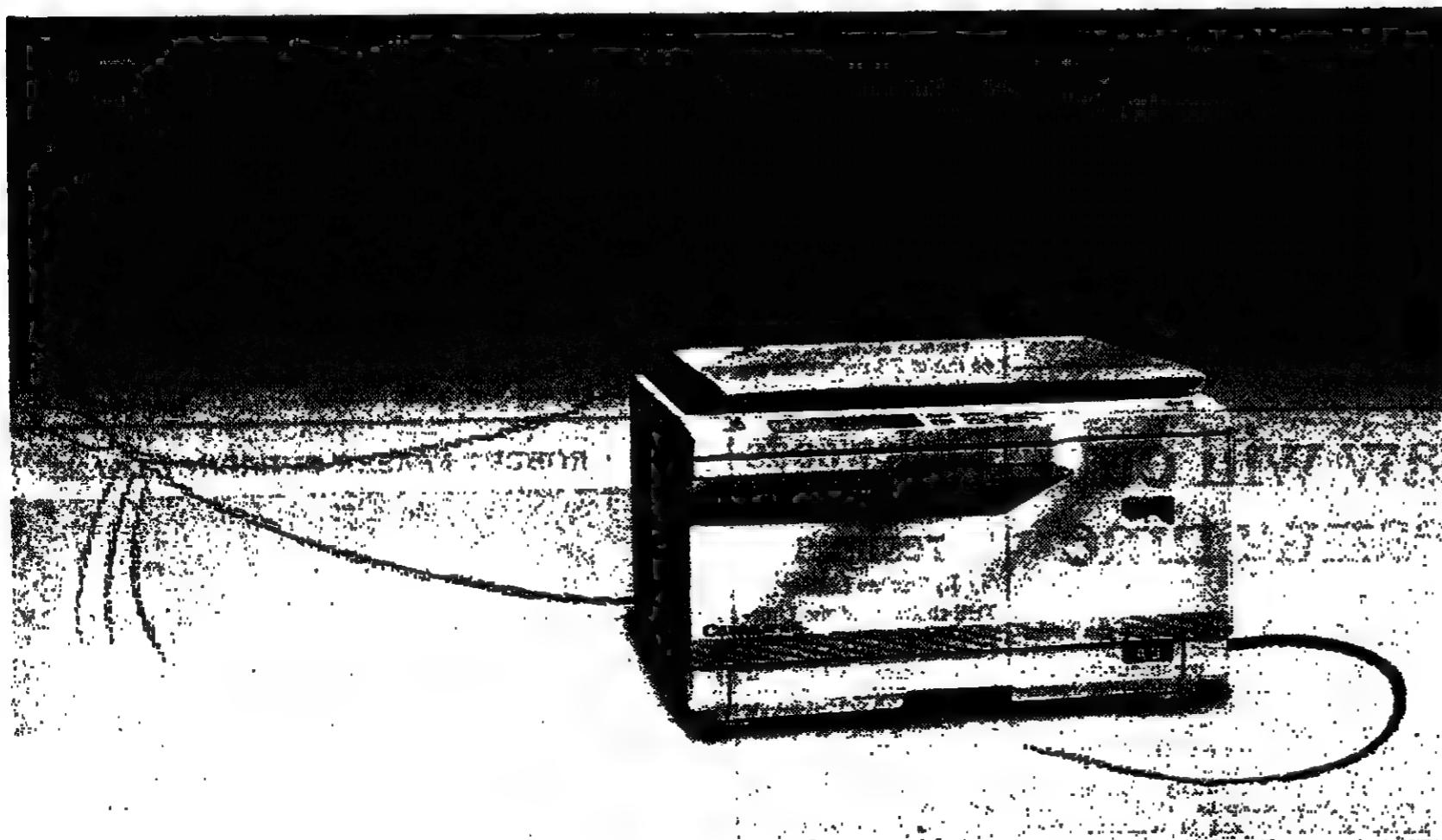
### Magnet deal expected

A RENEGOTIATED version of the contentious property deal involving Magnet, the kitchen retailer, and Bourne End Properties is expected to be announced today.

A writ issued by Magnet in an attempt to force Bourne End to complete on the deal has been withdrawn.

The original £33 million

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# Burton shelves Storehouse bid plans as profits dip to £116m

By Gillian Bowditch

**BURTON** has run the rule over Storehouse, the Habitat, Mothercare and British Home Stores group, but has decided against launching a bid after institutional shareholders disapproved of the idea.

Burton refused to comment on specific acquisition plans, but Mr Eddie Gallagher, corporate affairs and investor relations director, said: "We have professionals looking at all sorts of things all the time. We keep all our options open."

Richards, the Storehouse

women's wear chain, is for sale at £100 million.

Sir Ralph Halpern, chairman of Burton, described the past six months as "the most difficult trading period in recent history."

The group made pre-tax profits of £116.3 million, down from £117.5 million, in the six months to March, on sales of £986 million, up 10 per cent.

The shares rose 1p to 162p on the news.

Earnings per share were static at 14p and the interim

dividend increases 7 per cent from 2.8p to 3p.

Sales from the retail division, including Debenhams, Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop and Burton Retail, rose 8.4 per cent to £924 million. Like-for-like sales were up 4 per cent and the trading profit rose by 3.5 per cent to £10.4 million.

Analysts are concerned about the weakness in the retail property market and Burton now intends to see its property developments through to completion rather than selling them, which will mean carrying costs of £1.3 million a year.

Profits were static and Burton's results were down.

Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits for the full year of £200 million to £205 million, a fall of £20 million on last time.

This means Sir Ralph looks set to take another cut in his £89,000 salary. Under the profit-related scheme, if earnings per share fall there can be no current-year bonus or discretionary bonus although there may still be a deferred bonus from four years ago.

Mr Gallagher emphasized that the next six months would continue to be tough.

Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits for the full year of £200 million to £205 million, a fall of £20 million on last time.

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**T**he topic of junk bonds is one of those, like the price of houses, on which everybody seems to have an opinion. Those who ever were, or were ever likely to have been, on the wrong end of a junk-financed bid always knew it would end in tears. They reckoned that a recession would drive the market into panic and eventual oblivion, and there would be pain.

We are already seeing the pain. The powerhouse of Drexel Burnham Lambert, which created junk and a market on which to trade it has effectively gone out of business. Banks around the world bear the scars on their balance sheets as high-coupon corporate debt tries to find a true value. The US savings and loan industry has buckled under the weight of dud property loans and defaulting bonds.

Serve them right? Perhaps. But there is more to it than teaching unwise fund managers a lesson, as they have lost not their money, but other people's savings.

The ripples may, however, spread even further. Moody's Investors Service, which has watched the development and demise of the market,

said recently that far from being caused by recession, the collapse might even trigger a recession.

The root cause of the junk bond problem is a complete swing in market psychology from pro-leverage in early 1989 to anti-leverage in 1990. That is dangerous for leveraged borrowers and, in turn, bad for the asset values on which the security of lenders depends.

Moody's sees real problems arising when companies try to refinance, and that is born out by the Securities Data figures released in New York this week, showing that new high-yield financings contracted to \$375 million in the first quarter of this year, down from \$5 billion in the first quarter of 1989.

As the effects ricochet from the corporate to the banking sector and back again, the US economy may be pushed into recession. Companies need working capital to ride an upswing in the economy, just when those that usually provide it may be fighting for survival from a crisis that is not over yet.

Mr Michael Milken has much to answer for.

## COMMENT

### Many victims as the junk bonds come home to roost

#### 'Cold call' proposal for Peps

**FINANCIAL** salesmen will be able to "cold call" customers and sell investment trust savings schemes and personal equity plans investing in shares if proposals published by the Securities and Investments Board today go ahead.

The proposed changes would bring investment trust schemes and share Peps into line with unit trust products.

#### Directors' pay

Annual basic pay rises for directors in the six months to February show a modest decline on the previous six, according to a survey from Charterhouse, the merchant bank. The median rise for directors is 12.9 per cent, down from 13.6 per cent.

#### EHP setback

The troubled European Home Products yesterday unveiled a collapse in earnings per share from 29.2p to 12.1p. Pre-tax profits fell from £24.3 million to £16 million. A 3.5p final dividend leaves the total at 6p.

#### Wilkes leaps

Pre-tax profits at James Wilkes surged by 90 per cent to £2.5 million in 1989. The final dividend rises to 4.75p (4.25p), making 9p, up 16 per cent.

#### Maxwell rises

Shares in Maxwell Communications Corporation jumped 6p to 187p after Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman, told shareholders to expect a final dividend for the year to March of not less than 8p, making at least 14.5p, against 14.4p.

#### Clarkson up

Active shipping markets helped Clarkson (Horace), the shipbroking group, to a 57.7 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £3.04 million for 1989. The final dividend rises to 5p, making 7.5p for the year, up 20 per cent.

#### Aran loss

Aran Energy, the Irish oil group, made a pre-tax loss of £63.58 million for 1989 against a £125.00 million profit previously.

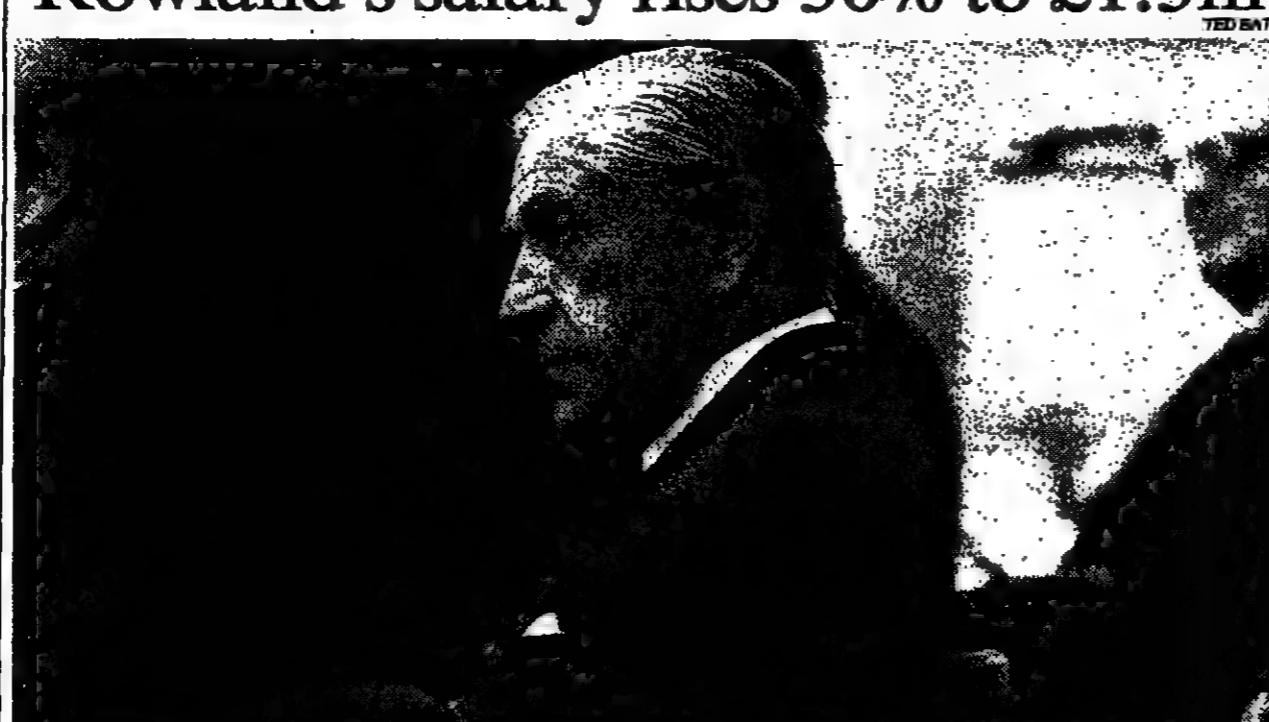
#### Tin payout

The Bank of England will today start paying £182 million to creditors to the International Tin Council, whose failure in 1985 triggered a world tin crisis. The funds have been collected from governments behind the ITC.

#### Hooke left of the hook

**AMERICAN** stockbroker Bob Hooke, employed until yesterday as head of sales and trading in the London office of Banque Paribas, has been released by the bank just in time to begin his onerous training schedule for the BOC round-the-world single-handed yacht race which begins in nine months. Hooke, who has already crossed the Atlantic single-handed, had been with Paribas for two years. He was one of five people who left the bank yesterday, among them former Quilter Goodison partner Keith Tondeur. Paribas bought Quilter, where Sir Nicholas Goodison, a former Stock Exchange chairman, was once the senior partner, in 1986, and later sold its private client business, the right to the Quilter name and 14 of the firm's partners to Commercial Union. The job losses were the result of the merger of its UK and European sales desks to form one pan-European desk, and also its UK and European trading desks to form a separate pan-European trading desk. "We have done this to emphasize the European nature of our business," Chris Cartwright, head of equities, tells me. "We are approaching Europe as one market. The UK, within that, is the most important market both in terms of client base and its size, and we will regard it as such. Our research department is already focused on a pan-European basis and now it will be augmented by sales

#### Rowland's salary rises 30% to £1.3m



Mr Tiny Rowland, Lourho chief executive, pauses for reflection during the annual meeting at Grosvenor House yesterday. His salary rises from £1 million to £1.3 million. The group announced a 1-for-10 share bonus and confirmed it will seek damages in the House of Lords for costs incurred pursuing the Fayed brothers during the House of Fraser affair.

#### Profits at United hit by costs and falling circulations

By Jeremy Andrews

**PROFITS** from United Newspapers' national titles, the *Daily Express*, the *Sunday Express* and the *Daily Star*, fell by almost a quarter to £24 million last year due to falling circulations and higher costs.

This setback, together with a doubled interest charge of £15.8 million, virtually wiped out growth from advertising periodicals, such as *Exchange & Mart* and *Forent*, and from magazines, whose profits in total went up from £50.2 million to £64.1 million.

The interest charge rose because of the high cost of relocating its national papers from damage caused by the storms in January and February. The storms have also doubled the cost of the company's insurance.

It estimates claims from January's storm will total £50 million, while damage from February will cost another £25 million. However, all but £20 million of it will be covered by reinsurance.

The current year has started flat, prompting Lord Stevens, United's chairman, to give a warning: "A number of our publications and businesses will not be able to escape the consequences of reduced advertising expenditure."

United's regional papers did better, with trading profits £6.5 million up at £26.8 million, partly because advertising revenues in the North of England held up better than in the South-east. However, this division was the main beneficiary of the £4.9 million pension credit.

Profits from the US, where United has been acquiring new titles, rose by £11 million and left the firm - also to join Fleming. But reports that it has left Capel's desk of convertibles traders are untrue. "We still have a department of nine people, which is more than most firms, and we will continue to be major players in this field," a spokeswoman tells me. "None of our sales people have left - these people were all traders."

relatively tender age of 46, Lynch said his father had died at 46 and "this is very much on my mind. Lynch, who wrote the bestseller *One Up on Wall Street* last year, has struck again. Yesterday, junior traders Terri Ashkam and Sarah Gray, both from Capel's convertibles desk, resigned

and trading." He was, he added, still "actively looking for people with the right qualities to implement our strategy."

#### Struck down

**CAPITAL** and Regional Properties, the USM-quoted commercial property investment company, may have unveiled impressive results, with 21 per cent net asset growth, but chairman Martin Barber, aged 43, nevertheless found the accounts extremely painful reading. For, as he was looking through them on Monday evening, he was struck down with appendicitis. "The accounts themselves weren't at all painful, so I didn't really have anything to grumble about," he said.

#### Lynch goes

PETER Lynch, manager of the Fidelity Magellan Fund, the largest and most successful mutual fund in the United States, has retired at the

#### GRE falls by 38% to £148m

By Nell Bennett

**GUARDIAN** Royal Exchange is expecting to pay almost £120 million on 85,000 claims from damage caused by the storms in January and February. The storms have also doubled the cost of the company's reinsurance.

It estimates claims from January's storm will total £50 million, while damage from February will cost another £25 million. However, all but £20 million of it will be covered by reinsurance.

Claims from the flooding in Wales and the West Country may cost another £5 million. GRE says it has been forced to pay £25 million for reinsurance cover this year, up from £12.5 million in 1989.

GRE made pre-tax profits of £148 million, down 38 per cent due to large underwriting losses in Britain and Ireland.

In Britain, GRE made an underwriting loss of £25.8 million, compared with a profit of £27.7 million. Ireland made a pre-tax loss of £46.2 million, after a £1 million profit in 1988. Life insurance profits slipped 9 per cent to £27.3 million due to start-up costs in Ireland and France.

Times, page 22

#### Ridley resigns

**TRANSPORTATION** expert extraordinaire, Dr Tony Ridley, resigned as the managing director of Eurotunnel yesterday, and as a director of its subsidiary companies, barely 24 hours after the company's annual meeting. Ridley, aged 56, and a former chairman and managing director of London Underground, first made a name for himself in the early 1970s, when he was director general of Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive, and paved the way for the city's metro system. From there he moved to Hong Kong, to mastermind its mass transit railway. He became a non-executive director of Eurotunnel in 1987 - moving into the managing director's chair a year ago. His departure had been widely anticipated. "It follows the reorganization we announced in February," a spokesman says. But Eurotunnel is somewhat coy about revealing details of Ridley's contract or compensation package. "We are not talking about compensation," I was told. "We have nothing to say - it's between him and Eurotunnel." And its shareholders, perhaps.

• A BOSS by any other name ... Grants of St James's, that "leading wine and spirits merchant", has been advertising for a sales executive for its York office. The applicant, who must be "resourceful, flexible and imaginative," is instructed to apply to the local sales manager, one Raymond Ponika.

Carol Leonard

#### ASC clampdown on creative financing

By Alastair Fairley

**THE Accounting Standards Committee** is to clamp down on companies who use creative financing techniques to tidy up their balance sheets.

The ASC is to re-issue an exposure draft which, if adopted as a full standard, will require companies to account more accurately for assets and liabilities under their control but not written into their balance sheets.

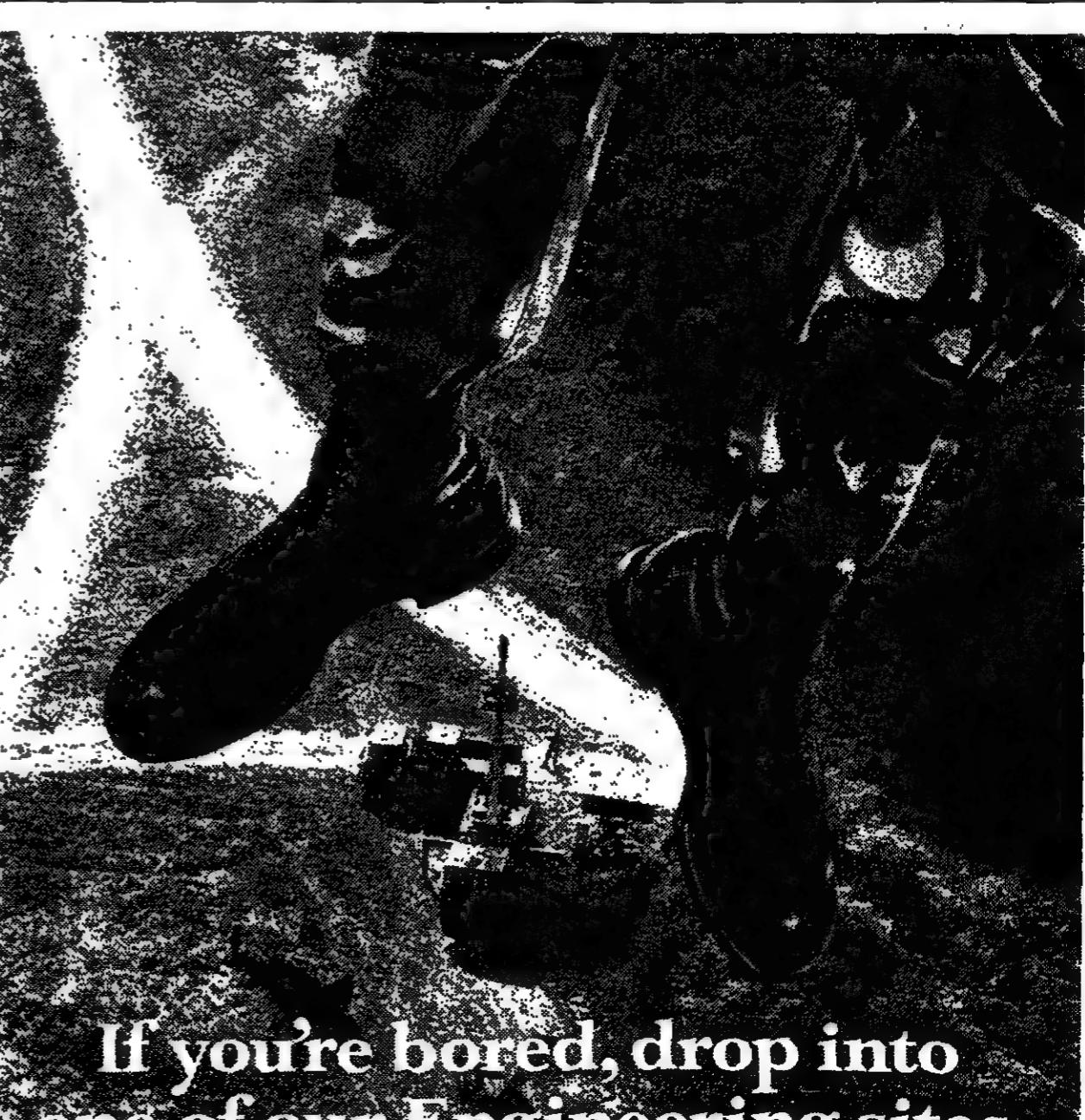
In response to criticism of its earlier draft - released two years ago - the ASC has also taken the unusual step of issuing detailed guidance on ac-

counting for the five key forms of off-balance sheet finance: mortgage securitization, factoring, consignment of stock, sale and repurchase agreements, and loan transfers.

Companies which previously have come under fire include Terence Conran's Storehouse Group which entered into a deal with Morgan Grenfell designed to remove Richard Shops from the Storehouse balance sheet. Under the deal, Morgan Grenfell took 48 per cent of Richard Shops' shares, leaving Store-

house a further 48 per cent. Since neither, technically, owned the company it failed to appear in the net assets or liabilities of either's accounts, even though Storehouse retained an option to buy back the remaining shares.

Mr Renshaw said in future companies should report "the substance and not just the form" of off-balance sheet transactions. The transactions should be analysed to determine whether their true impact increased or decreased a company's net assets, and then reported on accordingly.



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**Army Officer**



"Compensation will, apparently, run into telephone numbers."

Carol Leonard

The Armed Forces Equal Opportunity Employment under the terms of the Race Relations Act 1976.

## Miller will take helm at Wang

AFTER the death last week of Mr An Wang, founder of Wang Laboratories, Mr Richard Miller, its president, is being appointed chairman and chief executive.

The board's unanimous decision reflects the confidence which the Wang family and the other board members have in Richard Miller, the company said.

Mr Miller, aged 48, joined Wang, based in the US, last August. The Wang family plans to retain its controlling interest and Mr Wang's widow, Mrs Lorraine Wang, will be honorary chairwoman.

### Dolphin leaps

Pre-tax profits at Dolphin Packaging, now chaired by Mr Roger Wooley, the former chief executive of DRG, jumped 36 per cent to £2.48 million, on sales 43 per cent higher at £26.7 million in the 12 months to December. Earnings are 8.69p, up 26 per cent, and the final dividend is 2.5p (2p) making 3.7p total, up 16 per cent.

### C&R jumps

Net assets at Capital and Regional Properties rose 22 per cent to £24.4 million in 1989, and NAV improved to 202p (165p) a share. Pre-tax profits were £3.9 million (£1.09 million) and a final dividend of 0.6p makes 0.9p total, up 50 per cent, on earnings of 29.29p (8.76p).

### Druck up 1%

Pre-tax profit at Druck Holdings, maker of microchip-based pressure sensors, rose 1 per cent to £1.60 million in the six months to December, despite sales up 10 per cent to £3.5 million. Earnings fell 0.6p to 14.6p, but the interim dividend rises 0.1p to 2.6p.

### NMW profit

NMW Computers, the security systems supplier, edged back into the black with pre-tax profits of £37,000 (£1.3 million loss). Turnover for the year fell to £9.1 million (£10.3 million). The final dividend stays at 0.25p on earnings per share of 2.05p (4.6p loss).

### Dauphin rises

Dauphin, the office chair maker, lifted 1989 pre-tax profits 12 per cent to £4.01 million. Earnings rise 9 per cent to 12p, and a final dividend of 3.3p (2.7p) makes 4.8p total, up a fifth.

# Polly Peck tops forecasts with 44% jump

By Melinda Wittstock

technical adjustment to reflect the bonus element in last September's £283 million rights issue.

Earnings per share rose by 16.4 per cent, against City forecasts of 10 per cent growth. "Most analysts made their forecasts before the rights issue, and most did not account for the fact that the shares climbed 70p to 368p on news of the rights issue at 245p," said Mr Peter Jones of Shearson Lehman.

He said the shares had fallen because of the confusion over earnings growth and Polly Peck's failure to announce the sale for more than \$200 million of the nine

ships acquired with Del Monte Fresh Fruit last September. It is understood Polly Peck will announce the disposal soon.

Turnover increased 52.7 per cent to £1.16 billion for the year, while net assets jumped by 114 per cent to £827 million. A higher-than-forecast final dividend of 8p will be paid, making 13p for the year, up 36.8 per cent on last year's 9.5p.

Mr Asil Nadir, the chairman, said the results were "an appropriate conclusion to a decade in which we achieved an unbroken record of profitable growth."

He said the food division had

handled more produce of a greater variety and from more sources than before. Its pre-tax profits rose from £88.1 million to £128.2 million.

Del Monte made a three-week contribution to profits of £2 million net, and is expected to add more than £30 million this year.

The electronics division, which continued to diversify its production capacity in the Far East and Europe, increased pre-tax profits by 63 per cent to £31.4 million. Polly Peck said it still had "a lot more to accomplish" with Sansui Electric Company, the Japanese manufacturer of audio products in which it

bought a controlling stake last October for £68.7 million.

However, the electronics results were lower than some analysts expected, leading to re-evaluations of 1990 results. BZW cut its pre-tax estimate from £236 million to £227.5 million and Hoare Govett by £5 million to £225 million.

"That's still a rise of over 40 per cent, well above the market average. It's a reflection of how highly the company is regarded in the City that even results like these cannot satisfy everyone," said one analyst.

The company also announced a one for 10 scrip issue.



## Wembley slips to £11.1m



Balancing assets and earnings: Brian Wolfson, chairman of Wembley, now concentrating on core activities

By Our City Staff

SMALLER proceeds from the sales of property held back pre-tax profits of £37,000 (£1.3 million loss). Turnover for the year fell to £9.1 million (£10.3 million). The final dividend stays at 0.25p on earnings per share of 2.05p (4.6p loss).

But before taking account of exceptional items like property sales, the group showed a 19 per cent rise in profits to £2.5 million compared with £7.1 million in 1988. Exceptional items of £2.7 million were £1.4 million less than in the previous trading period, giving pre-tax income of £11.16 million against £11.24 in 1988.

Profits from these companies were included from their dates of acquisition. "We now have a better balance between an asset-rich portfolio with low returns and an earnings vehicle with low asset backing. Our strategy continues to be the development of our core activities in the raising of their profitability," said Mr Wolfson.

Apart from owning the Wembley Stadium complex, the group is the largest greyhound racing operator in Britain and the US and has interests in catering and hospitality, film distribution, plus US activities taking in com-

peterized ticketing systems and betting equipment.

Fully-diluted earnings per share were 9.3p against 9p.

The board is paying a final dividend of 1.3p per share making a total of 2p for the year, a rise of 33 per cent. Mr Wolfson said all areas of activity were performing in line with expectations.

"Bookings and orders for 1990 are well in advance of this time last year and the acquisitions made during 1989 are all expected to be earnings-enhancing," he said.

During the year Wembley bought Julian's Holdings, the nightclubs group, Guild Entertainment, which distributes films, and Meridian Holdings.

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## Telfos brings Hungarian buy to profits

From Colin Norwington, Budapest

TELPOS Holdings, the engineering and investment group, has brought its pioneering Hungarian acquisition, Ganz, the state-owned railway engineering company, into profit, and is looking to expand further in Eastern Europe.

The company is convinced a new and dynamic era is dawning for railway systems throughout the world, especially in Britain. It is studying a deal with a Czechoslovakian railway engineering concern, as well as the expansion of its Hungarian involvement to traction plant production.

City forecasts point to group results, due next month, showing a pre-tax profit of more than £6 million for last year, after its profits soared by 200 per cent the previous year to £2.16 million. Earnings per share rose by 142 per cent 18.8p to 22.5p.

The workforce and other costs have been severely pared at Ganz, now called Ganz-Hunslet after Hunslet, the Telfos subsidiary in Leeds, West Yorkshire, which is a specialist railway engine manufacturer. The company expects Budapest to generate steadily increasing profits, reaching 10 per cent of turnover over by next year.

When Mr Jo Malins, the chief executive of Telfos, signed the Hungarian deal last August, Ganz was seen by Communist-controlled Hungary as a financial burden.

The shares shed 51 per cent of

the locomotive, railcar and tramcar manufacturer for £1.2 million, about £10 million of which was in the form of technology and management skill transfer.

Telfos, which is still the only British firm to have concluded a large deal with the Hungarians under their incentive-filled joint venture programme, has put its own management team in Budapest to reorganize the company.

Mr Malins, speaking in Hungary this week, expressed surprise that more British companies had not followed Telfos into joint ventures in Hungary, as the country had a solid industrial tradition, especially in engineering.

His own brief experience of operating in Hungary could soon lead to another six deals involving British companies.

In December, Telfos set up a joint venture with Virgin Group and Mr Peter Mowland, a private businessman, to manufacture floppy discs and audio tapes, using production facilities within Hungary.

Mr Malins, whose enthusiasm for engineering led to his original separation from Chillingham Corporation, sees Hungary providing a low-cost production base with a valuable home market for Ganz-Hunslet products.

From Budapest, the company could supply the demand anticipated as British Rail is geared up for privatization and the London Underground modernizes.

## 'Lower tax on gold coin sales'

A CALL for the Government "to do justice" to the Britannia gold coin and lower, if not abolish, VAT on gold coins was made by Mr Robert Guy of NM Rothschild & Sons, the bullion dealer, at the London Bullion Market Association banquet.

"It is a fine coin and its potential sales would be greatly enhanced if the tax regime was more favourable," Mr Guy said before an audience including Mr Peter Lilley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

### B-G advances

Bridport-Gundry, the specialist netting, thread and webbing manufacturer, lifted pre-tax profits from £306,000 to £510,000 in the six months to end-January. Turnover fell to £16.2 million (£17.4 million) after disposals, although core turnover improved 27 per cent. Earnings per share rose from 1.95p to 2.2p, and the interim dividend is maintained held at 1.9p.

### Airport prices

The European Commission has unveiled new regulations, subject to national approval, to prevent airports from charging excessive and arbitrary prices to airlines and to stamp out favouritism towards national carriers. The rules call on airlines to publish transparent, non-discriminatory pricing scales.

### Brooks grows

Brooks Service, the workwear and laundry group, improved profits to £2.3 million (£2.1 million) during 1989. Turnover rose 22 per cent to £22 million. A final dividend of 3.9p makes 5.75p (5p) total on earnings of 13.4p (12.7p).

### Fitch ahead

Fitch-RS, the design consultancy, edged ahead with pre-tax profits of £3.71 million (£3.62 million) on sales up 35 per cent at £25.8 million. Earnings per share fell to 28.2p (32.3) and the dividend for the year is static at 9.5p.

### G&D slips

Pre-tax profits at Gibbs and Dandy, the builders merchant, fell from £913,000 to £172,000 last year on static sales of about £24 million. Earnings fell to 2.6p (7.8p) and the dividend is 2.75p (2.76p).

## Property setback for Swire

From Leslie Yu, Hong Kong

SWIRE Pacific has reported net profits of HK\$3.08 billion (£241.7 million) for 1989, up 2.7 per cent but slightly below market expectations.

It saw operating profit fall from HK\$5.63 billion to HK\$5.53 billion despite increased earnings from its 52 per cent-owned Cathay Pacific Airways, which reported net profit up 18 per cent to HK\$3.32 billion.

Turnover rose 10 per cent to HK\$27.68 billion while net

strong demand, the group suffered lower results in the property sector. He said: "Although the full benefit of substantial increases in rental income from the investment property portfolio will not be recorded until after 1990, prospects for the group for the current year are reasonable."

A final dividend of 57 cents will be paid on each A share, making 80 cents (76 cents) and the B will receive 11.4 cents, making 16 cents (13.2 cents),

## Exports aid 49% advance at Jeyes

By Philip Pangalo

A HEALTHY advance in overseas earnings boosted profits at Jeyes Group, the manufacturer of household cleaning and hygiene products, including Parozone bleach and Jeyes fluid.

Pre-tax profits rose by 49 per cent to £2.36 million in the year to end-December, on turnover up 23 per cent to £44.6 million. The performance was boosted by Wet Ones moist tissues, a product that has seen strong growth since Jeyes acquired it from Sterling Health last March. It accounts for about 10 per cent of sales.

Exports, which account for 12 per cent of group sales and 40 per cent of operating profits, advanced by 49 per cent and were particularly

strong in Europe and the Far East.

Earnings per share growth was restricted to 7 per cent at 16.2p, due to a higher tax charge and an increase in shares. The final dividend is raised to 2.8p (0.9p), making 4.7p (0.9p) for the year.

Profits were also helped by the inclusion of a £195,000 exceptional gain arising from a change in accounting procedures for depreciation.

Mr Jimmy Moir, managing director, said that British market shares had improved in all core areas in 1989, with sales for branded goods improving by 24 per cent and customer own brands ahead by 23 per cent. However, sales to industrial customers had fallen by 4 per cent.

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# "WE WON AN AWARD FOR TREATING OUR STAFF LIKE VEGETABLES!"



Not surprisingly, the *figure 1.*  
management at Lambton Park Garden

Centre has always been keen  
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From the start, in 1977,  
they planned to make their Garden  
Centre the biggest and best in North  
East England.

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business, the way to  
bring their plan

*figure 2.*  
to fruition seemed obvious.

They simply adopted  
the same long term  
approach to training their  
employees as they did to  
nurturing their plants.

As a result customers  
soon began to benefit from the extra

care and expertise  
shown by staff.

Which explains  
why the produce  
and the company  
are both thriving.  
(Turnover has increased  
tenfold since 1977.)

This positive *figure 3.*

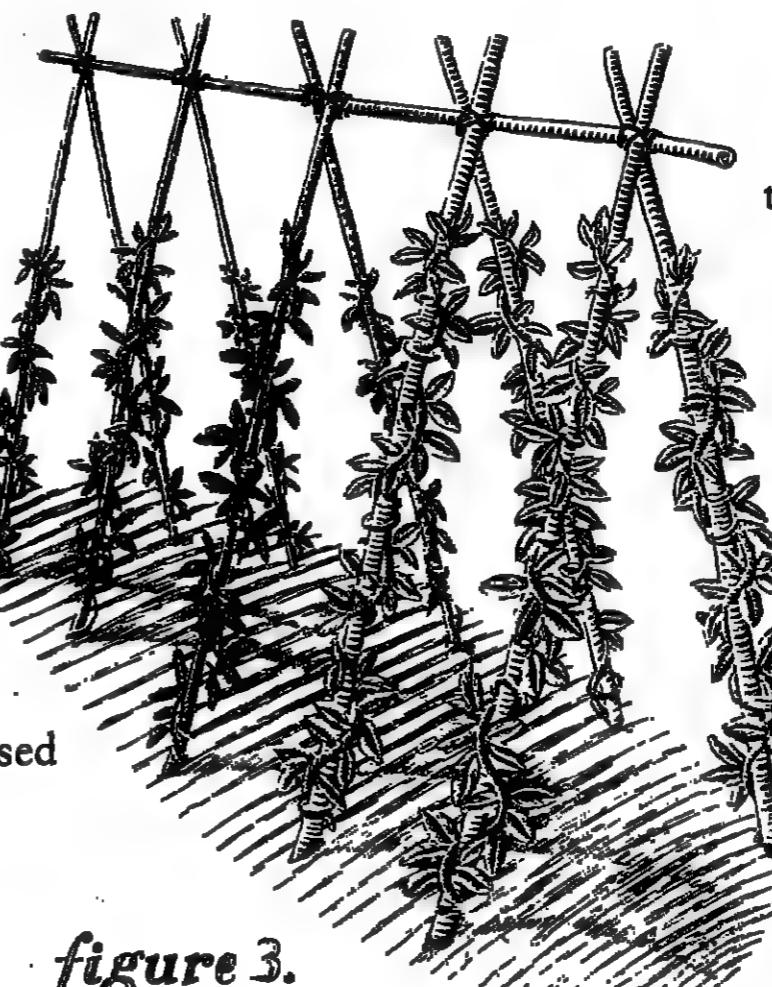
attitude to staff training was shared by  
the other 79 winners of last year's  
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In fact, each of the 1303 entrants  
demonstrated how a similar investment  
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businesses.

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award winners soon find  
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Matthew Bond on changes in out-of-town shopping

# Superstores in the doldrums

TWO intrepid mid-week shoppers had their noses pressed up close to the shop window. But what they were looking at was nothing, just the vast empty space that was all that remained of the Habitat and Heals supermarket on the Thurrock retail park in Essex.

The store had closed only a few weeks ago, one of seven out-of-town units that Habitat's owner, Sir Terence Conran's Storehouse, had decided should shut as part of a £14 million rationalisation programme.

The Habitat closures were just the latest item of bad news to hit out-of-town shopping. Since the new decade began, barely a day has gone by without some fresh problem afflicting one of the new generation of retailers that has become so familiar to a new, flat-pack generation of by-pass-loving shoppers.

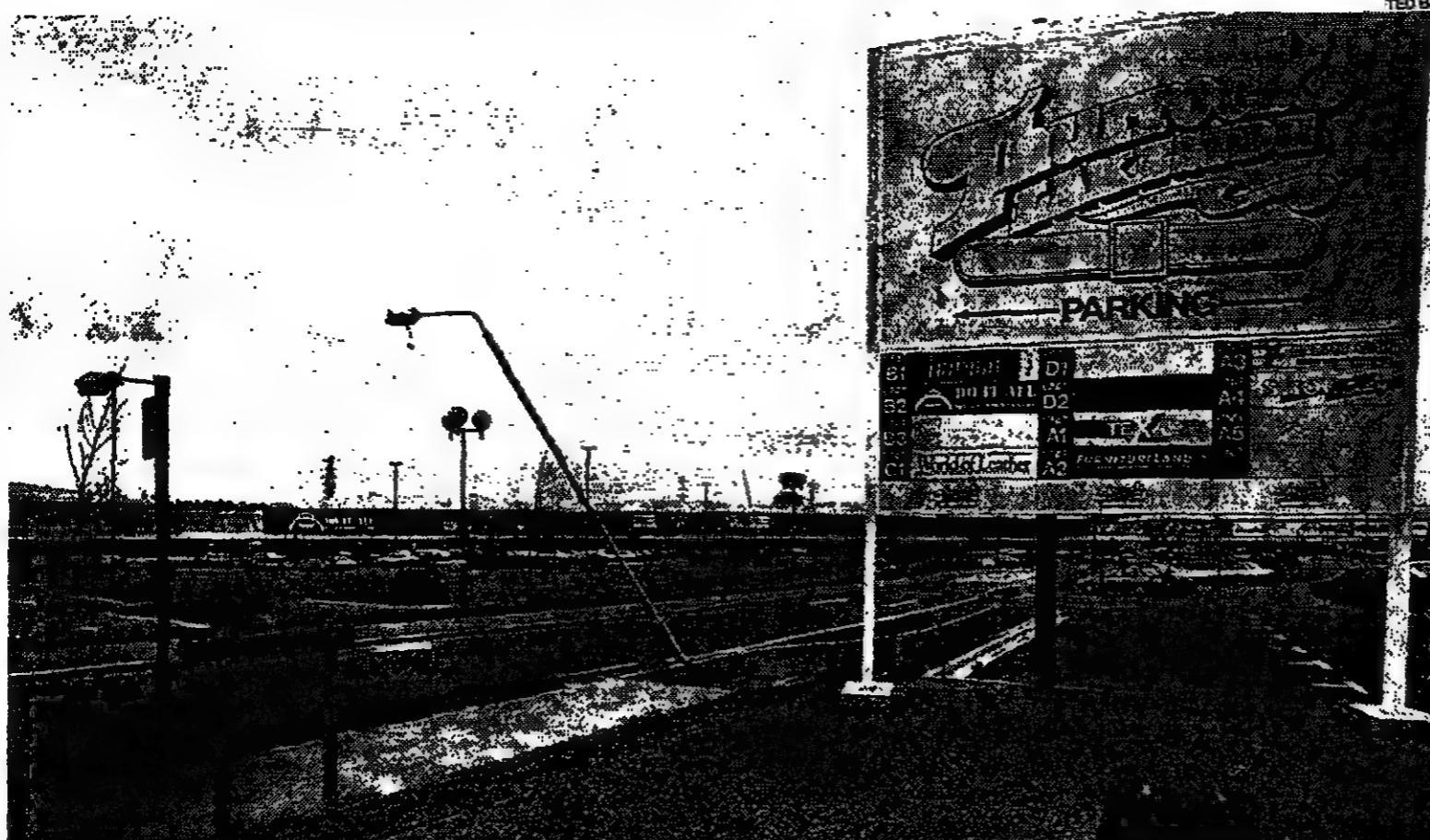
Habitat, Queensway, Mag-net, World of Leather will be just some of the names that will be inscribed on the monument commemorating those who fell, or at least teetered dangerously, in the great out-of-town retail war.

But, as the bad news from the retail battlefield gathers pace, there is a growing body of opinion questioning whether the entire strategy was correct. Was it worth sacrificing thousands of acres of countryside, to row upon row of flimsily constructed buildings where breeze block and corrugated iron is spaced only by rolling acres of tarmacked car park? Commercial property agents, with an honesty unknown to their residential cousins, rightly describe these building as "sheds".

Urban outskirters have never been prettier but the MFI-ing of Britain over the past two decades must rank as one of the most destructive forces in the British landscape.

The problem is still growing. The property agent Hillier Parker estimates that 12.4 million sq ft of out-of-town retail space will open in 1990, compared with 8.7 million sq ft in 1989. There remains, too, a growing number of traditional high street retailers, such as Marks and Spencer, Next and Sears, which are coming round to the out-of-town idea, as well as new interest from leisure companies.

But with high interest rates squeezing the retailers and deterring the financial institu-



Deserted: the Thurrock retail park in Essex where the Habitat/Heals store has been closed as part of Storehouse's £14m rationalisation

tions which have traditionally bought retail parks from developers, this development should slow quickly.

Mr Tony Burton, senior planner at the Council for the Protection of Rural England, believes this hiatus could provide an opportunity to rethink the entire planning strategy.

"The CPRE does not object in principle to out-of-town shopping — there are going to be circumstances where it is appropriate. But we believe the thrust of planning policy should be towards the revitalisation of town centres."

Mr Burton does not believe local planning authorities can be blamed for the present generation of edge-of-town and out-of-town development.

A planning policy note, published in 1988, by the Department of Environment, which apart from generally being favourably disposed towards retail development, indicated that competition between the high street and new out-of-town development was not a matter to concern the local authority. Competition was king and the more shops the better seemed the message.

Times, however, change. Answer his own question, although a number of recent planning decisions, on occasion coupled with costs awarded against developers, have already given a strong indication of what the answer will be.

But anyone growing misty-eyed with a vision of redundant retail warehouse sheds being demolished and the land being returned once again to verdant pasture is being naive.

Buyers include the property sector groups such as Land Securities and British Land, together with the new generation of developers such as LTI, Bourne End, Water-

As Mr Richard Ashworth, of Hillier Parker, says: "In 20 years the pattern of development may well have changed. At the very least the owners will then have something sizeable to play with." In property such timescales have a habit of shortening.

Buyers include the property sector groups such as Land Securities and British Land, together with the new generation of developers such as LTI, Bourne End, Water-

At Thurrock, this trend is taken to its logical limit.

Next to two existing traditional retail parks (owned by Land Securities and Watergate respectively) Capital & Counties is spending £350 million on what is termed a regional shopping centre.

Due to open this autumn, the massive part-completed building (which will eventually offer 1.2 million sq ft of shopping) is already clearly a building of much architectural thought (a sort of cross between a London mainline station and the Crystal Palace). Its architectural merit will only be judged when finished.

But Mr Patten has already suggested that there will be very few Thurrock-type centres. Last year 11 proposals

were either refused planning permission or were withdrawn by their developers. A further 16 proposals remain.

The impact of the Capital & Counties development on the existing parks is unknown. It either attracts new customers to the whole area, thereby increasing their profitability, or it drives them out of business, thereby releasing the land for some other form of development — be it science park, business park or even housing.

There is, of course, a third option — that the shoppers of Essex reject the refinement and prices of the Capital & Counties development and opt for the site it high, self-low philosophy of the retail warehouse.

At present, the financial environment is hostile to all forms of property development, making it impossible to assess what development could follow retail parks. But new development will come — the property developers have already grabbed that opportunity. It would be encouraging to see the planners seize their opportunity as firmly.

## Data security 'is biggest headache' for top companies

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

THE benefit computerisation has brought industry and commerce has proved such a double-edged sword that breaches of data security rank as today's biggest business headache. This emerges from a study of business risks carried out by MORI, Market and Opinion Research International, for Securicor Consultancy, a new subsidiary of the Securicor Group.

Securicor's most public face has been its high-security vans for delivery of cash and other valuables. The new subsidiary has also been created for the security market to offer advice on tackling risks.

Securicor believes it is the first time business psyches have been plumbed on their security concerns, and they found that high on the list of corporate worries were hostile takeovers and product protection.

Natural disasters, by which MORI meant accidents and fires, also loomed large, perhaps especially so since Britain has taken such a battering from unusually bad weather conditions.

Every industrial sector that

MORI evaluated came up with strong anxieties about computer security, the main worries revolving around viruses, fraud, collusion, access problems and data disaster recovery.

Two out of five of all the

managers interviewed voiced concern. The most worried — at 44 per cent of the survey — were those in manufacturing and services. In transport and distribution 32 per cent declared anxiety, with the lowest level in mining and construction where there were still 29 per cent who fretted about their computer systems.

More than a third said they had been becoming increasingly worried over the last five years. They reckoned their exposure to breaches of computer security had risen by virtually a half in that period.

Close to 15 per cent had already been the victim of breaches.

And more than a third believed things would get worse over the next five years.

Sir Colin Woods, chairman of Securicor Consultancy, said the great benefits computer technology had brought to people's lives was proving to cause a cost in the damage caused if computer security

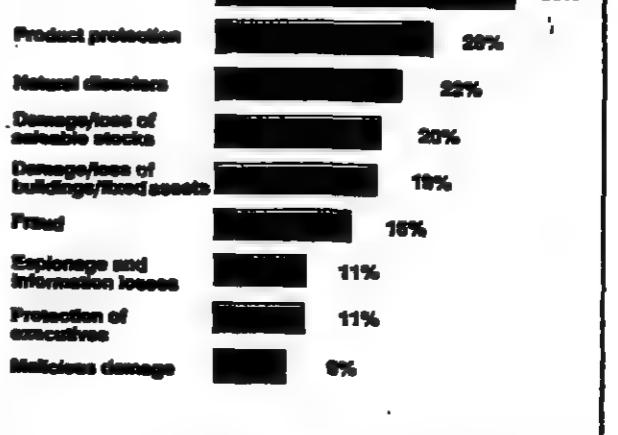
was breached.

"The corporate fears triggered by the threat of a hostile takeover are a recent phenomenon, as are the vicious and potentially disastrous consequences of product tampering, particularly in the food and pharmaceutical sectors," he said.

Sir Colin was surprised at

the corporate fears triggered by the threat of a hostile takeover are a recent phenomenon, as are the vicious and potentially disastrous consequences of product tampering, particularly in the food and pharmaceutical sectors," he said.

Product protection was a preoccupation of 16 per cent, with 39 per cent saying they had been the target of such incidents in the past.



## COMPANY BRIEFS

**DEAN & BOWERS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £2.85m (£1.38m)  
EPS: 14.2p (11.3p)  
Div: 3.25p, mkg 5p (5p)

**PORTMEIRION POTTS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £2.78m (£1.72m)  
EPS: 18.29p (14.92p)  
Div: 4.3p, mkg 6.1p

**COLROY (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £21.13m (£1.38m)  
EPS: 6.25p (1.04p)  
Div: 2.25p (2p)

**MELVILLE GROUP (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £23.14m (£2.57m)  
EPS: 5.26p (5.06p)  
Div: 1.5p (1.5p)

**PLASMEC (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £0.68m (£0.79m)  
EPS: 9.6p (10.5p)  
Div: 3.2p, mkg 5p (4.2p)

**EW FACT (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £0.08m (20.55m)  
EPS: 8.64p (9.92p)  
Div: 2.5p, mkg 3.5p

**MURRAY VENTURES (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.77m (£1.16m)  
EPS: 5.87p (4.12p)  
Div: 3.25p (2.50p)

**THURGAR BARNDIX (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £0.12m (£1.41m)  
EPS: 0.56p (3.95p)  
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**THE TIMES** Thursday March 29 1990  
Last Date Friday March 30 1990  
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# Date of registration relevant for overriding interest

Abbey National Building Society v Cane and Others

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver of Aynho and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle [Speeches March 29]

The relevant date for determining the existence of overriding interests affecting the estate transferred or created under sections 20(1) and 23(1) of the Land Registration Act 1925 was the date of registration of the estate, not the date when it was transferred or created. A person claiming an overriding interest by virtue of actual occupation of the land under section 70(1)(g) must have been in actual occupation at the time of creation of the transfer.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the second and third defendants, Mr Abraham Samuel Cane and Mrs Daisy Winifred Cane, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Woolf) (*The Times*, March 15, 1989; [1989] 2 FLR 265; 57 P & CR 381), who had dismissed their appeal from Judge D. A. Thomas at Croydon County Court who had ordered that the plaintiffs, the Abbey National Building Society, recover possession of 7 Hillview, South Lodge Avenue, Mitcham.

The first defendant, Mr George Edward Cane, had not resisted the society's claim for possession and recovery of the sum due under a legal charge and took no part in the proceedings.

Section 23 of the 1925 Act provides:

"(1) In the case of a leasehold estate registered with an absolute title, a disposition . . . shall, when registered, be deemed to vest in the transferee . . . the estate transferred or created . . . (c) . . . to the overriding interests, if any, affecting the estate transferred or created."

Section 20(1), relating to freehold property, is in similar terms.

Section 70 provides: "(1) All

registered land shall . . . be deemed to be subject to such of the following overriding interests as may be for the time being subsisting in reference thereto. . . . (a) the rights of every person in actual occupation of the land . . . save where inquiry made of such person and the right is not disclosed. . . ."

Mr Walter Aylen, QC and Mr Marc Bannister for Mrs Cane and Mr Alan Cane; Mr James Mumby, QC and Mr Graham Clark for the society.

LORD OLIVER said that in 1984, George Cane, Mrs Cane's elder son, had arranged with Mrs Cane to sell the house purchased in his name in which she and her husband were living and to purchase a smaller leasehold property, 7 Hillview.

He had applied to the society for a loan of £25,000 to be secured on mortgage, stating that the property was being purchased for his own sole occupation. In fact, he had never lived in the property.

Contract documents had been exchanged on July 19, 1984, completion being fixed for August 13. Prior to August 13, George had executed a legal charge in favour of the society and completion duly took place on August 13.

George had been registered as proprietor of 7 Hillview on September 13, 1984, simultaneously with the registration of the society as proprietors of the charge.

George had subsequently defaulted in his payment of principal and interest and the society had commenced proceedings for possession.

Mrs Cane and her husband

had been joined as defendants, and their defence had been that, by reason of Mrs Cane's

contribution to the purchase of the former property, represented by her status there as sitting tenant, and, more particularly, by reason of an assurance given to her by George in 1977 that she would always have a roof over her head, she had had, on or immediately prior to, complete

an equitable interest in 7 Hillview that took priority over the society's charge as an overriding interest.

She had, she claimed, been in actual occupation of the property and so had her rights secured against the society by virtue of section 70(1)(g).

It was not disputed that she had certainly been in actual occupation on September 13, 1984, when both George's title and the society's charge had been registered, but the society relied on the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Lloyds Bank plc v Rosset and Another* ([1989] 1 CLYC 350) as establishing that the relevant date for ascertaining the existence of an overriding interest was not the date of registration but the date of completion of the purchase.

Even on that footing, however, Mrs Cane claimed a priority because she claimed, she had been in actual occupation of the property prior to actual completion of the charge.

The claim had been rejected by the judge, who had inferred that the purchase and the charge had been completed by 9am on August 13, by which time it was common ground that nothing had occurred that could possibly have supported a claim that Mrs Cane had been in actual occupation.

The Court of Appeal, however, had held that the inference drawn by the judge was not one that could legitimately have been drawn and had concluded that actual completion of the purchase and the contemporaneous charge to the society had taken place at or shortly after 12.20pm on August 13.

At that time, Mrs Cane had been in The Netherlands on a holiday from which she had not returned until August 18.

Her husband and George, however, had prepared to move into the property and had arrived with a van containing her furniture and carpets at about 10am. The vendor had still been there loading a van

with his belongings but he had vacated the house at about 11.45, at which time carpet layers had gone in to lay Mrs Cane's carpet and her furniture had begun to be unloaded and taken in.

Thus there had been a period of about 35 minutes prior to actual completion during which there had been on the premises chattels belonging to Mrs Cane and persons unloading and arranging them on her behalf.

In the Court of Appeal, her claim had failed because, in the view of the court, she had been aware of the purchase price of 7 Hillview, over and above the net amount to be produced by the sale of the previous house, was going to be caused by George by mortgage alone.

His Lordship concluded, like Lord Justice Nicholls in *Rosset*, that the relevant date for determining the existence of overriding interests that would "affect the claim transferred or created" was the date of registration.

The question remained, however, whether the date of registration was also the relevant date for determining whether a claimant to a right was in actual occupation.

Lord Justice Dillon, however, had taken the view that the date of registration was the relevant date, since it was the date of events when the right, unaccompanied by a conveyance, was created before completion and before the charge had advanced his money and then subsequently the claimant entered into actual occupation after completion and remained in occupation up to the date when the registration of the charge was effected.

The change in that event would have had no possibility of discovering the existence of the claimant's interest before advancing his money and taking his charge but would nevertheless be subject, on registration, to the claimant's prior equitable interest, which, *ex hypothesi*, would not have been subject to the charge in its creation.

That did indeed produce a conundrum, although, which could, his Lordship thought, be

Registration Act. In *Rosset*, the Court of Appeal had decided unanimously that the relevant date was the date of completion of the purchase and not that of registration. The House of Lords was now invited to overrule that decision.

The conclusion at which the Court of Appeal had arrived made good sense and his Lordship would be extremely reluctant to overrule it unless compulsively driven to do so, the more so because it produced a result that was just, convenient and certain, as opposed to one that was capable of leading to manifest injustice and absurdity.

His Lordship concluded, like Lord Justice Nicholls in *Rosset*, that the relevant date for determining the existence of overriding interests that would "affect the claim transferred or created" was the date of registration.

The question remained, however, whether the date of registration was also the relevant date for determining whether a claimant to a right was in actual occupation.

The case that gave rise to difficulty, if the date of registration was the relevant date, was one in which the sequence of events was that the right, unaccompanied by a conveyance, was created before completion and before the charge had advanced his money and then subsequently the claimant entered into actual occupation after completion and remained in occupation up to the date when the registration of the charge was effected.

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avoided only by the route that the Court of Appeal in *Rosset* had adopted and by retaining the "date of occupation". In section 70(1)(g) as to the date of completion of the purchase, the date of the transaction by transfer and payment of the purchase money.

What had next to be determined was the nature, extent and effect of the interest claimed as an overriding interest.

Deferring for the moment the question whether Mrs Cane had been in actual occupation at the relevant time, it was difficult to see how she could, at that stage, have acquired any interest in 7 Hillview. She had not been a party to the contract for the purchase of that property, which had been entered into by George alone.

She had assumed, and, indeed, might have been led to believe, that she would have an interest in and the right to occupy that property when George acquired it, but at the stage prior to its acquisition she had had no more than a personal right against him.

As against that, the society, which had had no notice, squalor or constructive, of any right that she might have been entitled to, had agreed to advance £25,000 on the basis that she would make a payment of £1,450 and 12.20pm on August 13, by which time it was common ground that nothing had occurred that could possibly have supported a claim that Mrs Cane had been in actual occupation.

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## Wife's work insufficient to create legal interest

*Lloyd's Bank plc v Rosset and Another*

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver of Aynho and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle [Speeches March 29]

Work done by a wife towards renovation of the future matrimonial home, bought by her husband in his own name and with his own money, had been insufficient to justify a constructional intention that she should have a beneficial interest in it.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by Lloyd's Bank plc from the Court of Appeal (*The Times*, May 23, 1988; [1989] Ch 350) who, by a majority (Lord Justice Purcell and Lord Justice Nicholls, Lord Justice Mustill dissenting) had allowed an appeal by the wife, Mrs Diana Rosset, from Judge Scarlett at Thanet County Court, who had ordered possession in favour of the bank.

Mr Michael Crystal, QC, Mr Alastair Watson and Mr Simon Browne-Wilkinson for the bank; Mr Lolin Price, QC and Mr Timothy Bowles for Mrs Rosset.

LORD BRIDGE said that Mr Rosset was Swiss. In 1982, he had become entitled to a substantial sum under a Swiss trust fund. Mr and Mrs Rosset had looked for a new home for themselves and their two children to be bought with his inheritance.

They had found a house, registered land, that required substantial renovation before it could be occupied. The price had been £57,500. Contracts had been exchanged on November 23, 1982, but the Rossets had been let into possession by the vendors before that date,

their builders having commenced work on November 7. On December 14, Mr Rosset had asked the bank to be allowed to overdraw up to £15,000 on his current account to meet the cost of the renovation. He had signed the bank's form of charge.

Mrs Rosset had known nothing of the charge or the overdraw. She had made no financial contribution to the acquisition.

Completion had taken place on December 17, the conveyance having been made into Mr Rosset's sole name as grantor.

The Rossets had moved into the house in February 1983 when the renovation work had been substantially completed.

Since Mr Rosset had been providing the whole purchase price and the whole cost of renovation, Mrs Rosset would have encountered formidable difficulty in establishing her claim to joint beneficial ownership. Her claim had been, by necessary implication, to an equal share in the equity.

To sustain that, it had been necessary for her to show that it had been Mr Rosset's intention to make an immediate gift to her of half the value of a property acquired for £27,500 and improved at a further cost of some £15,000. The stipulation by the Swiss trustees would have made it doubly difficult for her to establish her case.

The judge, however, had rejected her pleaded case. He had found that up to exchange of contracts on November 23, 1982, the Rossets had not decided whether Mrs Rosset should have any interest in the property.

He had then considered Mrs Rosset's activities in connection with the renovation works as a possible basis from which to

infer that there had been a common intention that she was to have a beneficial interest in the property.

He had said: ". . . it was fair to assume that the renovation of the house was to become a joint venture, after which the house was to become a family home to be shared by [Mr Rosset] and their children".

His Lordship observed, however, that neither a common intention by spouses that a house was to be renovated to become a joint venture nor a common intention that the house was to be shared by parents and children was, at that time, held to give rise to a constructive trust in favour of the parties.

It was clear that the judge had based his inference of a common intention that Mrs Rosset should have a beneficial interest in the property under a constructive trust essentially on what she had done in and about assisting in the renovation of the property between the beginning of November 1982 and the date of completion on December 17.

Yet by itself that activity could not possibly have justified any such inference. It had been common ground that Mrs Rosset had been extremely busy, in establishing her claim to joint beneficial ownership. Her claim had been, by necessary implication, to an equal share in the equity.

In those circumstances, it would seem the most natural thing in the world for any wife, in the absence of her husband abroad, to have spent all the time that she could spare and to have employed any skills that she might have had, such as the ability to decorate a room, in doing all that she could to accelerate progress of the work quite irrespective of any expectation that she might have

of enjoying a beneficial interest in the property.

The judge's view that she could not reasonably be expected to make any significant contribution to the renovation of the house was, however, not supported, and his Lordship would allow the appeal.

He added that, in the situation where the court had to rely entirely on the conduct of the parties both as to the basis from which to infer a common intention to share the property beneficially and as to the conduct relied on to give rise to a constructive trust, direct contributions to the purchase price by the partner who was not the legal owner, whether initially or by payment of mortgage instalments, would readily justify the inference necessary to the creation of a constructive trust.

As his Lordship read the authorities, however, it was at least extremely doubtful whether anything less might do.

Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver and Lord Jauncey agreed.

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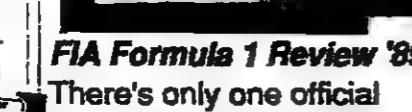
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## MOTORING

By Kevin Eason  
Motoring Correspondent

# Jaguar takes the fight to its rivals

**J**aguar will be the British rival to BMW by the year 2000 if ambitious plans by the company's new masters at Ford are realized. The man taking over the driving seat from Sir John Egan at the famous Coventry company gave a hint of what he expects from the business in return for the £1.6 billion paid by the Americans for the pride of British "Big Cats".

Bill Hayden says within 15 years Jaguar should be building 200,000 cars each year. The mainstay XJ6 saloon series will continue, although it is certain to be revamped in the mid-1990s, as will the XJS grand tourer, which is overdue for a radical facelift.

Meanwhile, the long-awaited XJ220, the 200mph supercar which has enthusiasts queuing for a car which rivals the Ferrari F40 and Porsche 959, is expected to arrive in two years.

Also due for release is the F-Type sports car, the replacement E-type, which Jaguar engineers have been working on for some time, but which needed the sort of money Ford will provide to get under way.

More important for sales volume, however, will be what Hayden describes as "a sporty saloon".

**Britain's 'Big Cat'**  
has gained added  
vigor and fresh  
direction from its  
new management

A mid-range car capable of competing with BMW's successful 5-series range, which has captured sales in the lucrative low end of the executive segment.

These early plans lead Jaguar in a new direction, away from the image built up over decades by founder Sir William Lyons, and then Egan, of Jaguar as a maker of exclusive hand-built cars.

Mr Hayden says that Jaguar's way of making cars is too inefficient to allow large volumes to be handled. He says quality is good "for a hand-built car" — meaning that there are bound to be inconsistencies in the manufacturing which result in one very good car, and one not so good. To compete with BMW, they all have to be good.

Skilled wood and leather craftsmen will remain to add essential

trimming, but mass production techniques are on their way with increased automation of assembly lines.

If BMW can mechanize assembly lines and still uphold a reputation for quality, why not Jaguar? Better production facilities would give better consistency of build quality, the standard so admired of Mercedes, for example. Ford will not expect to see any change out of the £1 billion needed to put all of this into operation.

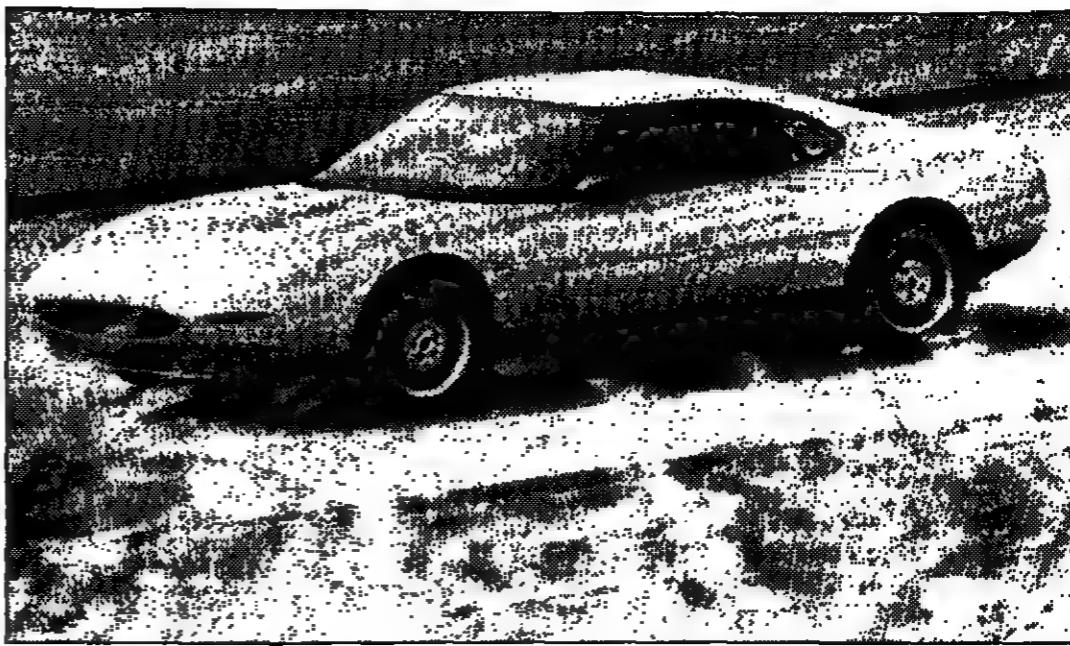
Meanwhile, Jaguar is already benefiting from the comfort of having the parental arm of Ford around the business — for the other arm is happily twisting component suppliers into doing their part to revitalize the vehicle.

During Jaguar's worst days, components were blamed for 60 per cent of breakdowns. Despite major improvements, 160,000 cars had to be recalled world-wide because of faults in braking and cruise-control systems a month ago.

Unfortunately, Jaguar spends £800 million annually on the bits under the bonnet, but still only makes 50,000 cars. Major component firms able to develop new, more reliable products simply did

not want to get involved with such small volumes. They do now though: suppliers with the chance of contracts for Ford or Europe, which makes about two million vehicles a year, are suddenly desperate to help.

Sir John was the embodiment of



Jaguar's F-Type sports car, the replacement for the E-Type, goes through its paces on the test track the company's Browns Lane plant.

Under Sir John, however, the Big Cat roared back from near bankruptcy, raising production from a meagre 14,000 to about 50,000 vehicles.

Moreover, Sir John raised public confidence in Jaguar to a point where the company was expected to make cars as good as, or better than, the best Japanese or German vehicles.

It is a pity he was unable to achieve the dream of an independent, all-British Jaguar; as so often happens in industry, the money ran out before the enthusiasm. His compensation will be the knowledge there will still be Jaguars on the road in the next century.

## Dealership looks east

### ROADWISE

■ A sign of the times. Porsche has lost its biggest dealership, Follett, to the Japanese. The company has decided that single-line dealerships for luxury cars is not the way of the future and has decided to join Mazda after 15 years with Porsche. Follett will also be signing up with Toyota, including exclusive dealerships required for Lexus, the new luxury car due here in the autumn. David Pigott, Follett's chief executive, says the changing economy means it must offer a wider choice of vehicles than just "exotic for the very rich".

Porsche now opens up with Dutton Forshaw, distributor of Rolls-Royces and Jaguars, in North London for the first time.

■ Don't pay the poll tax, drive the car, says Hyundai UK, offering to pay a year's poll tax for customers buying Stellar sedans over the next two months. Part of an aggressive sales campaign, deals on offer include a money-back guarantee on Pony saloons and hatchbacks. Dissatisfied customers get their cash back providing the car has fewer than 500 miles on the clock and is undamaged.

■ Diesel power from the Cirrus XM, Europe's car of the year, launched this week. Turbocharged with three valves per cylinder, the 2-litre offers 119mph top speed, but 57.6 miles to the gallon of diesel at a steady 56mph. Prices: £21,899, £16,449 and £21,119.

■ The Institute of Advanced Motorists has set up a training scheme for motor cyclists on machines with over 200cc with Daytona Kawasaki, of Windmill Hill, Ruskin Manor, Middlesex. New buyers get six free lessons at Harrow Driving Centre from the IAM's top instructors.

■ Hometune, the company which carries out an engine service on the customer's doorstep, has completed 10,000 conversions to unleaded fuel. Although the move to cleaner petrol is well established, Hometune says it will still convert cars free of charge.

■ The Royal Automobile Club says that up to 75 per cent of all new company cars this year will have RAC cover. That gives the organization a 36 per cent share of the company fleet market, forcing it to set up a separate division, RAC Business Services, which will be unveiled at the Fleet Motor Show in May.

■ Fly the new car salesman on his first day asked by the boss his opinion of the Renault Five. He beamed: "They're all innocent, Sir."



Rover 416GTi: clean acceleration is one of its strongest features

## Rover impresses with a car for all reasons

### ROAD TEST

**T**he Germans are in danger of losing their traditional pole position as leaders of the class for small, prestigious quality saloons, of all things, a British company.

Rover this week launched its new 400 series saloons, booted versions of the little 200 hatchbacks which entered the market at the end of last year and started a run on sales in the first few months of 1990.

The immediate target for the model is the Ford Orion, the booted Escort, which has maintained a place among the top 10 best-sellers as a favourite with fleet and private buyers alike.

If the Orion is to be overtaken, Rover will have to hit all of its ambitions production and quality targets to overcome the fear that its casualties from problems with reliability.

The 400 fulfils both sets of requirements with the boot offer-

ing a cavernous 14.5 cu ft of space, and generous head and leg room in the passenger compartment. All models have plush interior fittings, walnut trim, a well-laid out fascia and four-speaker stereo.

Under the bonnet, the car, like its 200 series sister, gets the choice of the Longbridge-built K-series 1.4-litre, 16-valve engine, or the meatier 1.6-litre from Honda.

Typical buyers could come from either end of the age scale — a family man or woman looking for big-car luxury in a smaller, more economical saloon, or a retired buyer wanting lower fuel consumption and maintenance costs, but anxious not to give up the wood and leather luxury of the Rover limousine.

The 400 fulfils both sets of requirements with the boot offer-

ing many things for many buyers. It is better than most in the Orion class and has enough to challenge BMW's 1.6-litre cars and the Audi 80.

### ROVER 400 SERIES

Price: 414Si £9,565; 414SLi £10,410; 416GSi £11,990; 416GTi £13,795.

Engines: choice of British-built 1.4-litre, 16-valve (four per cylinder) developing 94bhp (91 if catalyst equipped); or 1.6-litre, 16-valve for 128bhp.

Performance: 1.4 litre engine: 0 to 60mph in 11.1 secs (11.5 for catalyst car); top speed 106mph. 1.6-litre engine: 0 to 60mph in 9.2 secs (GSi), 8.6 secs (GTi); top speed 120mph (GSi), 124mph (GTi).

Economy: 1.4 litres, 32.6 mpg in town (33.1 for catalyst car); 1.6 litres, 29.3mpg (GSi) 28.5mpg (GTi).

Jaguar will certainly miss Sir John Egan, however. In these days

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## YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Edited by Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

## Self-start scheme for young entrepreneurs looks likely to grow

By Derek Harris

SUCCESS with a self-start business scheme for young entrepreneurs in Newport, Gwent, could result in similar operations being started elsewhere in Britain, thanks to the Community Projects Foundation (CPF).

The charity plans to recommend the scheme where it believes it could also work in helping those aged from 18 to 25 launch into business. At Newport, after three years of operation, two thirds of the businesses started up under the CPF's pilot scheme had survived into their second and third years.

Of the total 67 businesses launched in the three years, only 16, or 24 per cent, failed.

A total of 156 jobs were created and the combined turnovers added up to £1.5 million a year.

The scheme depended on two crucial factors, one being the cash available to give grants to help the businesses get started.

Some public sector funds went into the project but, crucially, Monsanto, the US chemicals company with a long manufacturing history in Newport, disbursed grants during the three years through its Monsanto Fund amounting to just over £79,000. Individual grants varied from a few hundred pounds to about £2,000.

The other factor was bringing those being helped by the scheme under one roof in initially sub-



"When I was young it was 'spring' - now it's just the end of the financial year"

sidised workspaces with various support services.

This led to much exchange of ideas, knowledge and contacts. The scheme also brought in voluntary assistance and help in kind from many sources particularly from professional people such as bankers, accountants and solicitors who could help with business counselling.

An analysis of the scheme which has now been superceded by the Gwent Self-Start Foundation, has been published by CPF. *'Self Start in Business'* is available from CPF Books, 60 Highbury Grove, London N5 2AG; £4.20 plus 80p p/p.

By Rodney Hobson

Bob Crutchley and Robert West had experience in silverware and photo-etching, and wanted to produce an original product.

So they combined their skills to produce a stunning range of greeting cards. They then combined their names and launched Robert Russell Silverware, based in Birmingham.

Because the product is both a card and silverware, it sells in jewellery shops and newsagents. Mr West said: "Both retailing groups have products in their own fields that are completely new."

The cards, made of silver-plated brass, are exquisitely delicate in design yet will last for a lifetime and beyond. They can be sent for weddings, Christenings, birthdays, Christmas, Valentine's Day and, naturally, silver wedding anniversaries.

Compared with ordinary cards they are expensive, retailing at about £14 each, but Mr West points out: "They are more than a card, they are also a gift. For a gift and a card, they are not costly."

Mr Crutchley adds: "Because of its intricacy and delicacy, the product tends to appear feminine, and 90 per cent of all gifts are bought by females."

It also appeals to jewellers, whose vote gave it the British Jewellers Association Award at the international spring fair at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham last month.

Mr Crutchley said: "Silverware produced by our methods has not been seen before. Photo-etching has given the industry so much more potential that manufac-



Bringing hi-tech artistry to an ancient craft: partners Bob Crutchley (left) and Robert West

turing methods that have not changed for the past 200-300 years."

The partners took time to get the product right. Mr Crutchley had been toying with the basic idea for years.

He said: "It began in the early 1960s at the time of computers. Everything was getting smaller and photo-etching was the only way to produce such tiny components."

"I could see that it could be used for other products. I could not get

photo-etching accepted in the jewellery industry, though. I could see that no-one understood a word of what I was saying."

The partners got together in earnest two years ago but the first cards were too large and were scaled down to 4½ inches by 3 inches to look more delicate.

Production began six months later and started to build up a year ago.

Nearly 10,000 cards have been sold so far, mostly to mail orders. Mr Crutchley said: "People are very

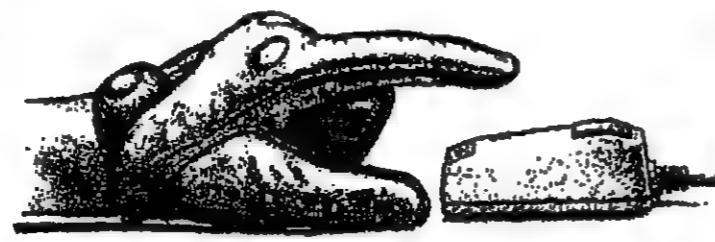
cautious about new products. We understand that."

The range has been extended to include bookmarks at £4, photo-frames retailing at £40 upwards using Victorian hand-tool methods would run the price up to £600 - and silver boxes.

The production of hallmark solid silver greetings cards is being considered by the partners. Although such cards would cost about £60 each in the shops, a request for them has already been received - from Hong Kong.

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The need for profit-making should not be allowed to handicap those in pursuit of sporting excellence

# The predicament of privatization

**SEBASTIAN COE**, the double Olympic 1,500 metres champion and Conservative parliamentary candidate for Falmouth and Camborne, says that Britain should benefit from the examples of foreign centres of excellence

**T**he Sports Council's 1987 review of the future of the national sports centres decided that they should be retained for their original purpose; excellence in sport; to provide top-class facilities and opportunities for top-class sportsmen and women to train, practise and develop, individually in teams or squads.

That decision, as I wrote yesterday, was greeted with relief, and great satisfaction by all the governing bodies in sport. Their campaign, marshalled by the Central Council of Physical Recreation, had paid off. The threat of "privatization" — the dread possibility that the national centres would have to make money, rather than pursue excellence — had been averted.

But the merry-go-round is off again. The Sports Council is about to privatize the operation of the five centres — Crystal Palace, Bushy Abbey, Lilleshall, Holme Pierrepont, Play's Den.

Reflecting on this turn of events, my mind travelled back to various visits I have made to centres abroad. Most countries have centres of excellence dedicated to top-level sport, to caring for the "shop window".

I have been lucky enough to see several examples on my travels. In Europe, for instance, there is the Cologne Institute of Sport Science, the main "elite" centre in West Germany, with 40 different departments; the Swiss have the lovely centre at Magglingen, where I have trained frequently; the East Germans have, among several centres, one for track and field at Leipzig; and the French boast, in particular, the marvellous sports centre at Vincennes, with its very impressive indoor training facility.

Australia has the well-known Institute of Sport at Canberra, which has been featured in Neighbours. Australians' commitment to its future is demonstrated by the appointment this week of Rob de Castella, the great marathon runner, as the next director. In the United States, there are several centres. I know best the one at Atlanta, within the Georgia State University, run by David Martin; this is part of the United States Olympic Committee's Sports Testing Centre at Colorado Springs, funded jointly by the American Olympic and athletic bodies.

## JUDO

### Chance of junior title for Howey

From Nicolas Sommier Dijon

JUST as surprising as the 14 English gold medals of the Commonwealth Games was the silver medal won a week later at the Tournoi de Paris by Kate Howey, the courageous teenager.

The Tournoi de Paris is one of the toughest tournaments, featuring every important country, including Japan, the Soviet Union and South Korea.

Yet the middleweight from Andover, aged 16, cut a swathe through a field of hardened opponents to reach the final. Once there, she only lost on a decision to Claire Leclat, the French champion.

Today in Dijon, Howey searches for further laurels at the world junior championships. As the European junior champion, she is one of the firm favourites for the title.

She admits that despite her early success, she is a long way from being the amateur world fighter that she admires — such as Diane Bell, of Britain, a seminal inspiration for Howey. Whereas Bell is highly competent at throws and ground work, Howey can only throw. "I don't know what to do on the ground except curl up in a fence," she said. "I must do something about that, but so far I have been lucky — I have never had to do ground work. I just throw them."

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

**FOOTBALL**  
Barclays League  
Third division  
Tottenham v Swindon (7.45).....

Fourth division  
Cambridge Utd v Wrexham (7.45)....  
Stockport v Peterborough .....

**PONTINE CENTRAL LEAGUE** Second division: Solon v Wigton (7.0)

**BASS NORTH WEST LEAGUE** First division: Ashton Utd v St Helens (7.45).....

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
SLALOM LAKE ALLIANCE: First division: Valley Herd v Wigan, Hall v Salford;



Sitting tight: Terry Bartlett, the third ranking British gymnast, at pains to improve his leg muscles in the rehabilitation centre at Lilleshall

All these centres have two main things in common. They are dedicated to fostering excellence in sport and recreation; and no one expects them to make a profit — at least, not one on the balance sheet.

Running through these thoughts are some big questions. What is excellence? How much should we expect to pay for it? You can ask these questions about excellence in any field, not just sport. The arts, for example; education generally; the sciences; commerce; the business of conservation, and so on.

Excellence is not elitism, with all its connotations of superiority or inferiority, and it does not simply mean success, although that may often be a part. Excellence, according to my dictionary, refers simply to "action, characteristic or feature in which a person excels".

Any nation wants to help its young people, in particular, to practise and develop their skills and abilities, so that they can excel, if possible, at the international level. We all like to compare the cream of our country's talent with that of other countries. Sport is one activity which makes such comparison easy and regular — in the arenas and stadiums of the

world, and in the international competitions.

The pursuit of excellence remains of crucial importance, in today's world. Every age and every community needs its heroes and heroines, its experts, its leaders of opinions, its major players. They are the people who set and raise standards. They set good examples — to youth and to all of us. They are the people who represent us outside our shores.

By their standards, we are judged by the rest of the world. By their standards — high, medium or low — our esteem is assessed. So excellence is part of patriotism, of national or local pride; it is part of industry's and education's motivation. It is what stirs the mind and the blood. It provides our targets and goals; and it is constantly changing them, because by definition excellence is about doing better.

Excellence is also about personal goals and developments. It is about achieving our personal best. I believe there is excellence in all of us, and we must never despair of finding it. Jean Guion said: "Originality exists in every individual because each of us differs from the others. We are all primary numbers divisible only by ourselves".

Perhaps in no other field is the development of tomorrow's excellence so obviously important as in sport. For this is sport's shop window. The key players are competitors encouraged by their exploits, seen frequently on the television and video screens. According to their example, sports can wither, or flourish.

What do the top performers need? The ingredients of sporting success are well known. Natural talent has to be identified, then coached, then tested. Then developed and nurtured. Through these stages things like motivation are important; and self belief and mental strength are relevant.

In all these stages and ingredients, facilities play a vital part. Without them, no talent can develop fully, or perhaps at all. They are needed at the local level, so that the new, young talent can be encouraged. They are needed at the national level, so that the stars (or nearly-stars) can train and practise and enhance their skills, in a

suitable environment. Here is the role and purpose of our five national sports centres. They are vital; as the great debate of 1987 showed very forcibly, these centres are needed badly by the governing bodies of British sport, to hone and enhance and develop the high standards necessary in national and international sport.

The trouble is, the centres cost money. They have been run at a deficit of some £3 million to £5 million for some years now, because obviously, the centres are used by a few people rather than a lot, because many governing bodies lack the funds to subsidize the centres themselves, and because fine facilities and equipment are not cheap.

Here lies the problem — how do you fund excellence? Our conclusion in 1987 was that the centres' deficit had to be treated as an investment. It was an essential investment, in the future as well as the present, and in excellence in this country's sport. And we decided — and Ministers then agreed — that this important investment should be part of the Sports Council's funding of sport each year and should, therefore, be

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## RACING

# Waterlow Park can initiate Beverley double for Balding

By Mandarin

IAN Balding's decision to send two runners on the long haul from Hampshire to Beverley today should be rewarded with a double.

Waterlow Park can set the ball rolling for the Kingcote stable in the Hornsea Mere Handicap, where he has to concede weight to his six rivals.

These include Daring Times, who landed a considerable gamble at Doncaster a week ago. However, he had a very hard race on that occasion and there is also a slight question mark over his enthusiasm.

Waterlow Park showed that he maintains his ability by winning four times last season, including a victory on this course in August.

The eight-year-old was only successful last year when ridden by an amateur at Doncaster as an apprentice. Seamus O'Gorman takes the ride today and I expect Balding to have the gelding fighting fit for his young apprentice.

Steve Caithness has the mount on Balding's other runner, King's Shilling, who is



Seamus O'Gorman: rides veteran Waterlow Park

napped to win the Leconfield Maiden Stakes. Last season, the colt showed ability in each of his four outings.

His best performance was on his debut in a very competitive maiden at Newbury where he finished a respectable fifth to Curia Regia. On that occasion the ground was riding fast and he will encounter similar conditions today.

Dumidumski appears to present the principal danger. Last season, the Niini colt performed well in a maiden at Newmarket when fourth to Cutting Note.

Fitness is often decisive at

this time of the year and, for that reason, I take Astiappens to land the Withernsea Handicap.

The Newmarket-trained four-year-old had a pipe-opener in an apprentice event at Doncaster last week. With that outing behind him, the chestnut, who completed a treble in the space of 10 days last August, can give Mark Tompkins and Ray Cochrane their first successes of the season.

Pof's Daughter, victorious at Doncaster on Friday, can also make her fitness and experience tell in the Scarborough Spa Selling Stakes. After the boy's victory on Town Moor, her trainer, Colin Tinkler, observed that she had scope for further improvement.

Tinkler's brother, Nigel, can also be among the winners in the Bridlington Bay Maiden Stakes. Last season the Mill Reef colt showed plenty of ability when trained by Michael Stoute.

At Wincanton, Baron Two Shoes, who showed much improved form to finish sec-

ond to the useful Olmstar at Hereford last time, can take the Somerton Novices' Hurdle.

Georgie, who found Go West too strong at Towcester, should appreciate the weaker opposition in the Forke Farm Mares Novices' Chase. Successful at Leicester in February, Jenny Pitman's consistent mare can return to the winner's enclosure at the chief expense of Minim.

Falkie Walwyn, who showed that he has his string in cracking form when his only two runners were successful last week, can take the Ivychester Hotel Racing Bar Novices' Hurdle with Slightly G.

Last time out, he failed to find his form at Windsor when eleventh of 12 to Boca Chimes, but had earlier come home in good style on firm ground at Towcester.

Gardie Grissell and Hywel Davies can sustain their excellent season with a double at Plumpton from Le Chat Noir in the Pease Pottage Novices' Hurdle and Serious Miss in the Alfred McAlpine Novices' Handicap Chase.

MOODY MAN, who won the Imperial Cup at Newbury in the space of six days earlier this month, is likely to be sold to race in the United States in a deal worth more than £100,000.

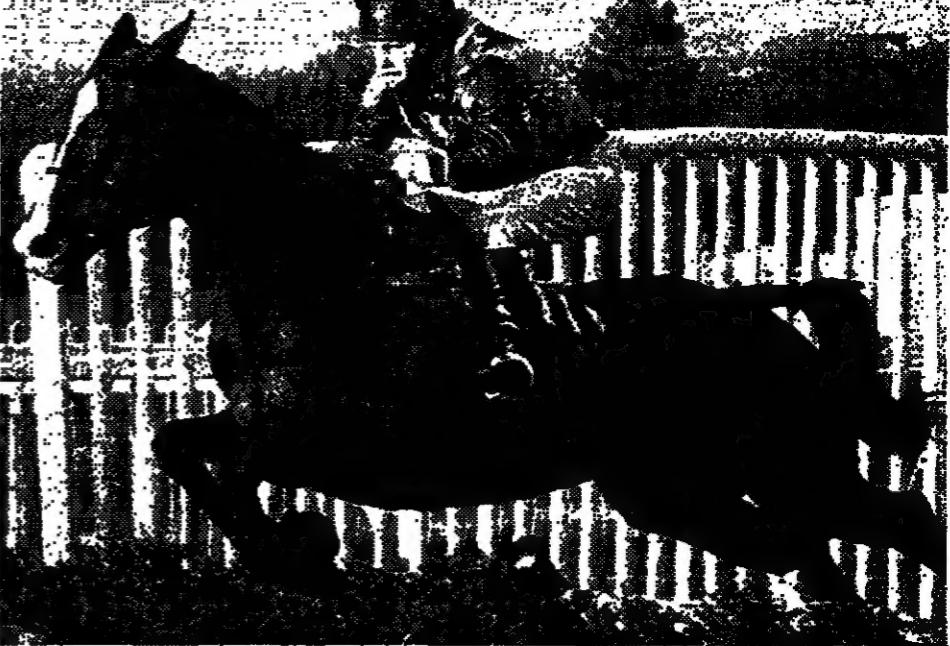
The prospective buyer, based in Virginia, has yet to be named but the transaction will be completed this month and provided Moody Man passes a veterinary inspection at Hobbs' stables.

A modest plater on the Flat when trained by Peter Easterby, the gelding was bought by Hobbs for 5,000 guineas at Doncaster Sales in August 1988 on behalf of John Milton and John Burke.

"We shall be sorry to see him go but all our horses are for sale," said the trainer's wife, Sarah. "If he passes the vet, Moody Man will go straight to the States. If not, we will run at Aintree on National Day."

Milton, who runs an electrical business in Exeter, said: "I will not be at all disappointed if the deal does not come off. He is a super horse and very sound. But a six-figure offer for a gelding is a tremendous sum, and it would be silly to turn it down."

The prospective owner intends flying over on Sunday to see the horse and bloodstock agent Charles Gordon-Watson, who has arranged the sale, said: "I understand the buyer has a particular race in mind in the States."



Moody Man, pictured jumping the last on his way to victory in the Imperial Cup, is likely to be sold to race in the United States in a deal worth more than £100,000.

## Munro continues fine start with Newcastle double

Cecil's pair backed for classics

By Phil McLean

CHIMES OF FREEDOM and Be My Child, Henry Cecil's principals, contenders for the Newcastle classic, were the subject of substantial sums paid when leading bookmakers yesterday.

Following reports of a sparkling midweek gallop, Chimes Of Freedom is now 6-1 second favourite (from 8-1) for the 1,000 Guineas with William Hill behind Negligent, the market leader at 5-1.

Be My Child, at the centre of adverse speculation earlier in the week, was well backed to win the 2,000 Guineas with Coral and is now 6-1 (from 10-1).

The American-bred colt, unbroken since a second in a two-year-old, worked satisfactorily on the Limeskline on Wednesday to dispel rumours that all is not well with him.

Rai Walki, eight-length winner of his only juvenile start at Goodwood in July for Guy Harwood, was also supported for the Guineas yesterday and is now 16-1 (from 20-1) with Coral.

Machiavellian, due to reappear at Maisons-Laffitte on Tuesday week, remains their solid favourite at 13-8 while Ladbrokes have cut the market leader's price from 7-4 to 6-4.

On the Grand National front, Rich and Rose, the mount of Richard Rowe, was said to lose £50,000 by Corals at 25-1 and Michael Robinson's eight-year-old, King's Shilling, at 20-1.

Hills report backing for Durham Edition and West Tip, shortening the pair from 20-1 to 16-1.

Alan Munro continued his outstanding start to the turf Flat season when landing a 12-1 double at Newcastle yesterday on Golden Torque and Kharif.

Golden Torque is owned by Colin Webster, a leading rails bookmaker, and trained near Thirsk by Lynda Ramsden.

The same combination pulled off a hefty gamble when During Times was backed down from 33-1 to 5-1 favourite prior to winning at Doncaster last week.

During Times, who attempts to defend his title at Beverley today, is the only other horse Webster has in training with Mrs Ramsden.

Golden Torque was not too smartly into his stride with Super One, the 7-4 favourite, showing the way for much of the trip. But well inside the final furlong, Munro produced Golden Torque to beat Sir Nick by a head.

"I thought Golden Torque had a good chance today as he has been working very well at home," Mrs Ramsden said. The winner was subsequently claimed on behalf of a syndicate for £24,000.

Kharif, owned and trained by Richard Allan at Cornhill-On-Tweed, completed a treble in the Westminster Motor (Taxi) Insurance Handicap, having won his last two races over hurdles.

"He will now go for the two-mile handicap at Ayr's Scottish National meeting," Allan said.

Kharif was quietly fancied by connections and was backed on the morning of 11-4 and 5-2

before being sent off the 2-1 favourite.

Heir Of Excitement, a 14-1 chance, sprang a surprise in the Dexa'Tex Handicap when beating Masked Ball, the warm favourite, half a length away third.

Paul Burke was always going well on the winner and cruised into the lead a furlong out.

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Munro defied top weight of 9st 10lb in the Go West Spring Handicap when beating Donovan Rose by 1½ lengths. Michael Roberts pushing Densben into the lead over a furlong out.

The winner has captured the best turned out prize in the race for the last three years and his trainer, Denis Smith, said: "He always manages to get me on the mark for the season."

Blinkered first time

SEVERLEY: 4-45 Young Gerard and Western.

RUGBY UNION

# Seven-a-side circus takes centre-stage for a fifteenth time

From David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, Hong Kong

THE rugby world has wound its way here once more, to the vibrant, grimy streets of Hong Kong in a week when the game dominates the local English-speaking media: they are playing 10-a-side, seven-a-side and they are even forming into committees to discuss the well-being of rugby at the sixth Asian Pacific Congress which is taking place at the new Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Caribon Tens drew to a close at the Hong Kong Football Club yesterday, an Edinburgh X reinforced by the Hastings brothers, Iwan Tukale and Derek Turnbull doing less well than anticipated but the Royal Marines keeping British hopes high by reaching the final against Hong Kong.

The Marines did well to be there: not only did they pay their own way but several came straight from exercises in Norway and then overcame, in their first outing, last year's winners, the Royal New Zealand Light Infantry, before succumbing — to great local glee — 20-10 in the final.

But the focal point of the week, for all the debate of delegates at the congress, is the

## Farr-Jones breaks jaw

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Nick Farr-Jones, the Australian rugby captain, will be out of action for at least a month after he broke his jaw in an ill-tempered match against a Soviet touring side, officials said yesterday.

The scrum-half, captaining a Sydney side in Wednesday night's match, was punched from behind by a Soviet player.

## Resignations add to the Welsh woes

By Owen Jenkins

WELSH rugby was thrown into further disarray yesterday with the resignations of Jeff Squire and David Burcher as national selectors. They come at the end of a season which must rank as the worst in Welsh rugby history and were tendered because the two selectors felt that the philosophy of the recently-appointed national coach, Ron Waldron, was "not a recipe for success."

The resignations follow the first whitewash for Wales in the five nations' championship and the sacking of David, then WRU secretary and then John Ryan as coach and chairman of selectors.

Both Squire and Burcher were absent from last Thursday's Welsh squad session before the team travelled to Ireland.

It is known that Waldron is aiming for a three-man selection panel to replace the "Big Five". This would be a manager, coach and assistant coach. These latest resignations will ease the

## Spirited demand for revival



Gerald Davies

discomfort doubled at the last-out. The pain did not let up; hearts were bleeding by the end. Welsh rugby had come to this. For the first time, in that room, it was a shared experience.

The purpose of this evening's meeting will be to prepare a letter which is to be sent to the WRU. It will express dismay at the condition of the national team as it stands and the condition of rugby generally in Wales.

The former players will offer their assistance in whatever capacity it is thought necessary without becoming involved in the politics and the bureaucracy which is so much part of Welsh rugby administration.

A Welsh committee representative is currently visiting a village with a village in verities at heart. His experience does not allow for an international perspective. There are places for his kind within the structure, but there is scant regard for the man who has endured the heat of the furnace of international rugby, mixed with the biggest and the best, and wants to make his contribution to the trend of the game. The balance is weighed again him.

The small-time politician might want to, clearly, does not know how to put Welsh rugby back on the pedestal where it thinks it belongs.

Dangerously, the disengagement has now begun to encompass those to whom the future matters most: the impressionable young. The finger is already poised on the self-destruct button.

There should be an access route for such men who are now

an overwhelming weariness or an overwhelming thirst, they did not, at any rate, go to the match that afternoon, preferring instead to stay in their hotel and watch it on television. It became a forum: opinions were exchanged. They grew uneasy, it seems, at the first scrum; the Methodist College confirm status

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

THE final of the Ulster Bank Schools' Cup was won by the favourites, Methodist College, who beat Campbell College, with whom they had drawn 15-14 earlier in the season. With wind advantage, Methodist College missed two penalties before a try by Andrew Deymond was converted by Graham Neill to earn a 6-0 interval lead.

Campbell's best chance of points came when Dermott Parker struck a post with a penalty attempt, but Neill, of Methodist College, kicked a penalty and converted an excellent try by Ben McQuoid to make sure of victory.

Methodist College, who won at the start, had a wonderful season, scoring over 500 points and not losing in the

limbo. Sponsors may very well be catered for at the Arms Park but there is not even a warming room for former players there. This is a small point but indicative, perhaps, of the different times. But the WRU must look at the framework of the game before they can embark on recovery.

The former players would like to part of that.

Time is running out. First

they have admit there is a problem," Gareth Edwards said.

"They have to identify it, then work out how it should be solved." Of the four players gathered in the HTV studio to discuss the matter — J. P. R. Williams, J. Williams, Alan Martin and Edwards, not one was convinced that their point had been reached. Not one was convinced that the bottom had been touched yet. All four concluded that unless vigorous and stimulating action was taken this summer, rugby in Wales might not recover. It has gone on for too long.

Since 1981, when Mourie's

All Blacks overran Wales, team after team have come to Cardiff and won handsomely. Still,

there has been no sign of much change. It is not so much the defeat, which is bad at some stage has to take, but rather the manner of the defeat that is so depressing.

Twenty-six of these players

were thinner and more unsteady and they were certainly not as swift. But drawing on vast experience, the intelligence was still there and the feel of what could and could not be done. They knew their limits and played resourcefully to them.

Whether through an overwhelming weariness or an overwhelming thirst, they did not, at any rate, go to the match that afternoon, preferring instead to stay in their hotel and watch it on television. It became a forum: opinions were exchanged. They grew uneasy, it seems, at the first scrum; the

## Czechs aim to follow Lendl's road to success



Homecoming hero: Lendl, back in Czechoslovakia, has proved an inspiration to his country's tennis fans.

## Loosening tennis shackles

Prague

**ANDREW LONGMORE, Tennis Correspondent, sends the first of two reports on the changing face of tennis in Czechoslovakia**

lions of green. The road to the top 100 in the world, already trodden by six players from the club in the last seven years, looks clear. In the women's rankings from the Czech school of tennis who did not quite live up to expectation.

Martincova is a full-time student at the sports centrum at Prevor, one of six centres of excellence which act as the finishing schools for the best young players in a tennis-draft land. Martincova is promising, so promising that she was brought to the school from her home in Brno about 30 miles away at the age of 13, a year earlier than normal.

She cried for the first three months, but was soon accepted to the consequences of her own talent and settled into the routine of practice (four hours a day) and conditioning (one hour a day).

Failure is not on Martincova's mind at present. Inspired by the image of Navratilova, she eats, dreams and lives tennis. She is the under-14 Czech champion and in her first taste of international competition won the doubles at the European under-14 championships and reached the last eight of the singles.

A chart in the office of Peter Huta, the head coach at the Prevor sports centre, records her progress. Forehand, volley, backhand, serve, conditioning. Green for good, red for unsatisfactory. Martincova has

Meanwhile, Albert Fernase, the FFR president, may resign if he loses a vote of confidence.

"People always accuse me of being undemocratic. But there will be a secret ballot. If I am in the minority or if I win with only a small majority I shall go," Fernase said.

• Wakefield, the favourites to win the Whitbread Yorkshire Cup, have a demanding second-round tie at Morley on Tuesday.

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## FOOTBALL

# Encouraging signs for England on Brazilian evidence

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

**IN RE-EXAMINING** the evidence of England's victory over the World Cup favourites, Bobby Robson yesterday found two pieces of particular reassurance. The re-emergence of Lineker and the adaptability of Waddle were the most heartening elements of the 1-0 defeat of Brazil, which provoked him to claim that "We now know we cannot be far behind."

Lineker, debilitated by hepatitis and depressed by Johann Cruyff's insistence on selecting him as a winger at Barcelona, has at last completed his recuperation. Once more, he resembles the fearsome forward who finished as the leading goalscorer in the World Cup finals in Mexico four years ago.

Aware that other genuine contenders for this summer's tournament appear to lack a potential weapon, Robson is especially relieved that his has been restored. The asset is potentially decisive.

"Look at Pele, Cruyff, Muller, Rossi and Maradona," he said. "Over the last two decades, they have proved that you need that sort of striker if you are going to win the World Cup. Lineker is in that class as a goalscorer."

"Goals will be hard to come by in Italy, and it was predictable that the margin would be narrow last night." Lineker taking the one chance he was offered represented the slender difference.

Robson would also prefer to maintain the supply of ammu-

nition by retaining both of his wingers, Barnes and Waddle.

"Both of them are good players so I don't want to take either of them out," he said. "I want to be positive and not go for goalless draws."

The contribution of Waddle was a revelation. Appreciating early on that McMahon and Platt were outnumbered in midfield, he decided that he should drift in from the flank and assist them.

"Waddle read the game and made an adjustment," Robson said. "It worked so well that we decided at half-time to keep the formation. Tactically, we learned something." In other words, both wingers can be employed without undue risk.

Brazil, by contrast, have clipped both of their wings. Even though Muller, a menacing threat when he came on belatedly, could operate out on a touchline, there is no room in their present system to accommodate him. Robson was prompted to question whether "they are missing that third forward."

He saw other encouraging aspects. For instance, he has become so accustomed to Walker "not putting a foot wrong that sometimes I forget to compliment him." Even when he inadvertently wounded Shilton, by elbowing him in the face after a dozen minutes, it worked to England's advantage.

Woods, having appeared for only one half since the European championship two years

ago, was allowed to confirm that he is a reliable reserve goalkeeper. "He, I and the team needed him to play that game," the England manager said. "Although he went in cold, he was hot."

Platt, the lone newcomer, indicated that he can fit adequately enough into the side but he cannot be expected to act as a genuine replacement for Bryan Robson. Although England proved they can survive without him, his presence in Italy remains a crucial factor.

Bobby Robson, who intends to recall Webb for the B international against Czechoslovakia next month, awaits the progress of his namesake. There is, though, a potential conflict between the interests of the country and his club. England do not require him until June; Manchester United need him in nine days.

Since their season hinges on their fate in the FA Cup semi-final against Oldham Athletic next Sunday, Robson appreciates that "Bryan is pushing himself to be fit for that. But he is so important to us that I will give him every consideration."

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THE TIMES

# SPORT

## Lamb takes reins as Gower steps back into the fray

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

England's captaincy was once an emotive issue yesterday as Graham Gooch miserably acknowledged he has virtually no chance of playing in the climax of a mission which he has led by inspiration.

But even as Gooch was handing over to Allan Lamb for the two remaining Test matches, he was re-stating his influence on this tour by initiating the improbably, romantic return of the predecessor, David Gower.

It was Gooch who, on Wednesday night, returned from an hour-long operation on his broken left hand and proposed that Gower should be asked to put down the pen and pick up a bat again for England. The first steps in this extraordinary story were taken yesterday, Gower netting with the rest of the party, and he is scheduled to play in the three-day game against Barbados starting today.

Gooch will watch Gower's return from the pavilion, which is where he must spend the remaining 14 playing days of this trip. Lamb becomes England's sixth captain in nine Tests against West Indies and it is a moot point whether, as a native South African, he cuts a more unlikely figure than Gooch, whose previous tour here was so politically-sensitive he swore it would be his last.

Yesterday, as the team left

behind a tragically lost opportunity in Trinidad and headed north to Barbados, Gooch saw no point in pretending he was anything other than fed up. But as he talked, for the first time, of a day which went so savagely wrong, his commitment still shone through.

Gooch revealed that he believes his hand was actually broken two overs before he left the field, when he was struck in an identical spot by a similarly lifting delivery from Ezra Moseley. "I punched the first one away with the glove and got a run for it. But I could not hold the bat properly afterwards and I think it was probably broken before he hit me again in the same place."

A hospital X-ray at lunchtime told Gooch all he needed to know but, selflessly, he decided that nobody, apart from the team management, must be told until the game was over. "I really didn't want the West Indies to know and get any psychological boost from having me out of the way. To keep it from them, I decided I would not tell our players, either."

Gooch was paddled up, prepared to bat again, when the match was abandoned in appalling light. It was only then that he broke it to his players that they would have to cope without him.

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"I know there is not much chance of me getting fit for the last Test, but I will not completely give up until the specialist in Barbados has removed the pins which were put into the hand last night. That will not be for almost two weeks and only then will I know if it has healed."

In the meantime, Lamb, aged 35, is elevated to a role he cannot seriously have considered possible before this tour. Although vastly experienced, Lamb has remained the wisecracking prankster at heart; as vice captain, he has capably complemented Gooch, but, with only one season as Northamptonshire captain behind him, his credentials have to be taken on trust.

He did not make the best of starts as leader of this injury-plagued squad by falling over a chair in the airport departure lounge yesterday.

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Captain's recruit: the injured Gooch (left) prompts return of his predecessor, Gower

## Once more unto the breach

**David Gower**

DAVID GOWER, who has been covering the England tour of West Indies for *The Times*, has been invited to play for team against Barbados tomorrow. He filed this report just before taking his first net practice for six months.

Such a rapid transition from Press box to dressing room smacks of a certain amount of optimism and I have the option to inform the England management this morning if I feel that the idea is beginning to verge on the foolhardy. Still, it is nice to be asked and it would be even nicer if all that positive thinking in the England camp were to rub off on official replacement.

The latest development came when it was revealed that Graham Gooch's hand was broken, and the message was delivered for me to go and speak with Graham and the England management during the evening after the Test.

My original plans had been to join up with the Hampshire squad in Barbados at the weekend to begin pre-season

preparations with five games on the island. The request to consider filling a gap for England against Barbados came out of the blue, and reflects doubts over Nasser Hussain's fitness and the time necessary to bring out an official replacement.

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A VITAL component in the England batting machine has been withdrawn for repairs, and top-quality spare parts are not easily found at short notice. England's short-term solution has been to seek out a replacement readily available, recently overhauled, but in need of some serious oiling and tuning. If all this sounds somewhat confusing, it is probably because I am somewhat confused as well.

The timing naturally posed one or two logistical problems. The definition as to whether I am now part of the playing party or the Press party is still murky indeed.

The next item on the agenda will be the England team's practice session at the Kensington Oval here. My own cricket kit had been packed and waiting in Southampton, ready to accompany the county side at the weekend. Hurred arrangements should bring the equipment to me in Barbados by the evening but I have had to borrow kit for the afternoon.

Only after a possible two net sessions will I really know whether or not it is sensible to play. It will do neither me nor England any good if I attempt to play without being suitably confident. Now that this piece is almost written, it is time to put away the journalist's tools and quickly resume the identity of an international cricketer.

With Wayne Larkins, Alec Stewart and David Capel all reporting hand injuries after the drawn third Test, the team manager, Mick Stewart, admitted that their initial problem was "simply finding 11 fit men" to play against Barbados today.

Stewart senior was also determined that Jack Russell should have his first rest of the tour and, with Stewart junior unfit to keep wicket, it was even mooted that England should turn back the clock and call upon David Bairstow, who is on Barbados playing in Yorkshire's pre-season practice matches.

Much more likely, however, is that Robert Bailey will keep wicket, as he has done in emergencies for Northamptonshire.

The opening problem was always likely to confront England, once their selectors had taken the extraordinary decision to bring only two specialists on the trip. David Smith, of Sussex, a left-hander and renowned player of fast bowling, is one opener; Mark Benson being another, who might profitably have been included. Yesterday, Smith was twice contacted by manager Stewart before being named as England's replacement for Gooch.

Their first choice was Michael Atherton, who played two Tests last summer and has been in prolific form for the England A team in Zimbabwe. A routine phone call to Harare brought news that Atherton

is in fitness to him.

PETER Shilton's unbroken run of league appearances could be brought to an end because of the injury he sustained in England's victory over Brazil.

The Derby County goalkeeper, aged 40, needed eight stitches to cut above and below his left eye after a collision with Des Walker, his team-mate, at Wembley on Wednesday evening.

Shilton yesterday described his chances of playing at Chelsea tomorrow as "doubtful".

"The eye is very sore and at the moment, I can't see out of it," Shilton said. "It was a complete accident, one of those unfortunate things which happen in football. Des was shielding the ball as I was coming for it and one of his elbows caught me."

Shilton had a pre-curtain X-ray but Arthur Cox, the Derby manager, said: "There is no bone damage but the eye is shut tight and very badly bruised. A decision on whether he plays at Chelsea will be left up to him."

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